

The Journal

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50 cents (Tax included)

Higher costs, changing trends affect redevelopment

By Dawn Frasier

EL CERRITO — Financial changes needed to accommodate escalating costs of improvements and projects in the city's redevelopment plan were discussed at a public hearing Monday night. The changes were proposed in an amendment to the original plan, according to Redevelopment Program Manager Gerry Raycraft.

Time constraints for establishing the development as well as the increased costs it now takes to complete projects necessitated the financial amendments, said Raycraft.

Since the original plan was adopted in 1977, he said, not only have expenses risen in general, but additional costs have been factored in.

"In 1977, no one expected the toxic contamination

that would be found under gas stations (and other sites)," said Raycraft, for example. "That all has to be cleaned up."

The new financial schedule "will allow the agency to provide assistance where needed," Raycraft said. "Where a financial gap in a project needs to be filled, the Redevelopment Agency can do that."

The amended plan would incorporate the following five changes:

- An extension of the time to establish loans, advances or indebtedness incurred by the agency to be coterminous with the life of the plan;
- An increase in the cumulative amount of tax increment that may be divided and allocated to the Redevelopment Agency to \$250 million;
- An increase in the total amount of bonded indebtedness that may be outstanding at any one time to \$80

million;

• An extension of the date which any eminent domain proceedings must be commenced to 12 years from the effective date of the plan amendment; and

• An update of the land use discussion to conform to the city's General Plan as it may be amended in the future.

The amendment will come before the city council for vote at its Feb. 16 meeting.

While there is some citizen opposition to the amendment, much of the public comment came from taxing agencies that believe they will suffer a financial burden or detriment as a result of the plan.

The Richmond Unified School District is an example of an affected agency.

'We feel the overall achievements of the (redevelopment) agency can and will benefit the citizens of El Cerrito'

—MICHAEL KLINGER
CHAMBER PRESIDENT

The agency has calculated the addition of about 872 total housing units to the city through its plan, about

See REDEVELOPMENT, page 12

Suspects in scam cases in custody

By Dawn Frasier

EL CERRITO — A year-long investigation of the auto collision which has targeted several elderly El Cerrito residents culminated last Friday, Jan. 22, with the arrest of Billy Stevens, age 43, and wife, Tina Stone, 42. Stevens and Stone are former residents of El Cerrito but currently live in a Richmond address.

Patrol officers responded to the scene of an in-progress scam at the corner of Schmidt and Liberty in El Cerrito after receiving a call from an alert citizen. The man said he witnessed a similar incident a week before and that an elderly man was now with the same suspect from the previous scam.

After the witness drove to a nearby police station to report the incident, Officer Donald Horgan ran to the scene and detained the suspect.

The basic scam has involved the accusation by the suspect that the victim had hit the suspect's car. The suspect then intimated the elderly victim with threats that, should police be called for an accident report, he or she might be arrested hit and run, have insurance canceled, or have a license revoked.

See SCAM on page 12

San Leandro imposes tax on transfer station users

By Dawn Frasier

If a new plan for the Richmond Unified School District proposed by Assemblyman Tom Bates is approved by the state legislature next month, Kensington may finally be able to resume negotiations for purchase of district land.

The town has been interested in purchasing the property as community open space for months, but the district's financial status has caused a long delay in the talks.

Last year, things looked hopeful

when a Bates bill that would have turned over 16 district properties to the state for sale — with the monies going to pay off district loans — was approved by the state legislature. Wilson vetoed the proposal, however.

Now, according to Rachel Richman of the assemblyman's office, the governor has given his assurance that he will sign the new bill.

"We're very hopeful and expect it to be introduced next month," she said. "In the meantime, we're talk-

ing officers of the California Highway Patrol and members of the Emeryville Police Department maintained a human wall between protesters and passing cars and set up a road block on a nearby frontage road.

See I-80 PROTEST, page 12



Protesting bicyclists advocated breaking the I-80 automobile habit

Chris Piper

Bicyclists protest I-80 expansion

Saturday protest results in arrests and slowdowns

By Chris Piper

It cost them about \$50 for flyers, a few hours from a pleasant Saturday afternoon, and some time in jail. But for a group of activists hoping to block planned East Shore freeway expansion, Saturday's protest was a success.

Attempts by about 50 protesters from a number of activist groups to block traffic in Interstate 80 in Berkeley ended with five arrests and a two-hour slowdown of weekend traffic on the massive thoroughfare.

About 30 officers from the Berkeley police department as well as about 40

Council adopts plan for San Pablo upgrade

By Phyllis Lyon

ALBANY — After a two-year mulling-over period, the City Council last week adopted new building design standards for San Pablo Avenue to phase out its "quick-stop," sign-speckled look and phase in the city's main commercial street as a "retail boulevard that reflects the quality of Albany."

A San Pablo Avenue Design Advisory Committee, citizens appointed by the council in 1989 to study "urban design and revitalization strategies" to upgrade the avenue, turned its report over to the council at the end of the same year.

A minor power play between the Planning Commission and the council over who has the last word plus a temporary outbreak of grumbling by current San Pablo business owners at a series of public hearings created a time lapse between release of the committee's recommendations and final council approval.

Objectives of the committee's San Pablo Avenue Urban Design Concept Plan, in addition to enhancing the "retail boulevard" effect, are to "define the Solano Avenue intersection as the center of an identifiable commercial district" and to "create special locations and features along the street."

The unsightly "auto row" along the western side of San Pablo north of Solano, for instance, might be visually improved by renovation into an "auto services emporium," according to a suggestion in the plan.

As an illustration of a "prototypical retail boulevard building," the Royal Cafe at 811 San Pablo is cited as "distinctive, fun," and incorporating special features in line with the plan's "more architecture, less signage" precept.

The San Pablo design guidelines apply only to private sector new development and renovation of existing privately-owned buildings. Some highlights:

• Silhouette. The outline of a building against the backdrop of the sky should be recognizable as a retail business, not a warehouse, assembly plant or corporate

See SAN PABLO, page 12

RUSD bill to permit property sale

By Dawn Frasier

If a new plan for the Richmond Unified School District proposed by Assemblyman Tom Bates is approved by the state legislature next month, Kensington may finally be able to resume negotiations for purchase of district land.

The town has been interested in purchasing the property as community open space for months, but the district's financial status has caused a long delay in the talks.

Last year, things looked hopeful

when to parents, elected officials, teachers and others in the community to get their input."

The legislation is different in several key ways from last year's proposal.

First, according to RUSD spokesperson Paul Ehara, the school district itself will be responsible for selling the property.

As in the former proposal, the district will be specifically allowed to use revenues from the sale of the

See RUSD, page 12

Citizens summoned to Albany town meeting

By Phyllis Lyon

ALBANY — With the fiscal storm clouds on the horizon looking even blacker than last year, the City Council has called a Town Meeting to get feedback from citizens on what to do about it.

"We're looking for input and direction from the citizens on what they would like Albany to be," said Mayor Bill Cain.

"We're opening up the whole range of city government for comments, suggestions and discussion."

The mayor urged Albany citizens to gather at the Veterans Building in Memorial Park next Saturday morning at 8:30 to peruse individual information packets over coffee.

The town meeting will begin at 9 a.m. with a brief presentation by the five council members on the state of the city, zeroing in on finances and what is currently surmised about plans the governor and the legislature have to grab more city money in 1993.

Citizens will then form small groups led by council members and community volunteers to discuss city problems and possible solutions.

Finances, service levels, goals for 1993 and 1994 and broad issues facing the city as may be suggested by participants will be included on the agenda.

"We want to know what we're doing right and not doing right," the mayor said.

The whole group will then reconvene to hear reports on the discussions and "to wrap up and tie everything together," according to Cain.

Informal one-to-one discussion over box lunches provided by the city will follow.

The council called the meeting as a first step in hammering out a new two-year city budget by July 1.

The two-way communication of the town meeting will provide the chance to shape priorities for the city," Mayor Cain said.

\$5 parcel tax proposed to fund trails

By Charles Levin

East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors unanimously approved Tuesday a resolution initiating proceedings to form an assessment district to fund the maintenance and operation of park trails.

If fully approved by the board after required public hearings, the district would assess recorded owners of parcels an annual fee of \$5 per parcel.

The assessment can't be approved without extensive public notification and explanation, pub-

lic hearings, and approval by the district's board of directors.

A total of seven meetings are scheduled, with at least three in each county.

Formation of the benefit assessment district is authorized by state legislation.

EBRPD General Manager Pat O'Brien called the fee conservative and less than the cost of a movie.

Farming and agricultural com-

munity representatives oppose the collection method and say it will burden those whose land comprises

more than one parcel.

Since the meeting, O'Brien said that the district is looking into a flat assessment fee for owners of multiple parcel lands.

O'Brien said that trail acquisition and development has been well funded by Measure AA passed in November 1988, but that recent state actions have encroached on the necessary finances to keep pace with maintenance and operation costs.

According to O'Brien, the state

See PARKS, page 12

See GARBAGE, page 12

Viewpoint

Vote to fund capital improvements for schools

Albany school buildings need major work. On March 2, 1993, the Albany Board of Education has called a special election to ask voters to authorize general obligation bonds to fund the capital improvements urgently needed on Albany school buildings.

Over a period of 18 years a series of bonds will be issued for specific planned projects. Each bond will mature in 25 years from its date of issue. The total amount of the bonds to be authorized will be \$31.6 million. Capital improvements have been delayed until the last of the bonds voted over 20 years ago to build Marin School and Albany Middle School are nearly paid off. They will be completely paid off in 1994.

By law, general obligation bond funds must be used only for capital improvements; they cannot be used for administrative or teacher salaries, furniture, classroom equipment or programs.

All school buildings must be upgraded to meet current health, safety and seismic standards. The classroom building at Albany High School, built during the Depression, is nearly 60 years old. It must be rehabilitated. The outdated electrical, plumbing and heating systems must be replaced. Science labs are inadequate. The library has not been improved since the school opened. There is no adequate classroom for teaching new computer technologies.

In recent years many new young families have moved into Albany because of the schools. In the past two years Albany's school population has increased by 180 students. With increased general population, demographers predict an eventual increase of 700 more Albany students.

To serve the increasing numbers of students six additional classrooms are needed at the elementary level and eight at the middle school. The Albany school district is paying to rent four portable classrooms. One occupies the limited playground space at Marin. Three are at the middle school.

Middle School was built in 1976 to serve a maximum of 540 students. The present enrollment is 678. Next fall's entering sixth graders are projected to push it to 743.

School buildings need more bathrooms and more support service space to accommodate increasing enrollment. Other needs range from renovation of older classrooms to repairs of mechanical and heating systems.

The Albany Unified School District has four

elementary school sites: Cornell, Marin, MacGregor and Vista; one middle school, and one high school. The enrollment in the spring 1993 semester is 2,828.

In addition to normal daily school programs, all school sites serve additional community use. The self-supporting adult education program registers 2,000 adults per quarter. Most sites are used for before- and after-school child care programs. Youth groups and community service organizations use the cafeteria rooms at four of the schools.

In a normal school week over 4,000 persons use Albany school facilities — that's 25 percent of the population.

Since 1988 a series of citizen committees has surveyed the long-range physical and structural needs of the existing school buildings. These committees represent a wide cross section of Albany taxpayers: senior citizens, business and professional people, employed persons, teachers, parents and grandparents of school children. Their recommendations to the Board of Education have resulted in the board's decision to call the March 2 vote.

What would the bonds cost the individual taxpayer? All property owners will pay at the same rate, which will average 8.8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation over the life of the bonds. Sixty percent of Albany's single family homes are assessed on the tax rolls at \$100,000 or less. Most of these are under \$50,000. Lower assessed homes would pay less, higher assessed homes would pay more.

"Albany citizens give an extraordinary amount of time and energy to support their schools," says Sally Outis. Outis and Georgia Fujikawa are co-chairpersons for the Albany Building Campaign for Schools. "We believe Albany's unique quality of life is due, in large part, to the high quality of our schools and we are willing to work hard to preserve them."

Longtime Albany resident Al Kobas remembers that in the depths of the Depression Albany voted funds to build the high school. "At that time Albany students attended Albany's Herbert Hoover Junior High and then had to choose to attend Berkeley High School or Richmond High School to graduate."

"It was a proud day when Albany had its own high school, and we still have an excellent school system," he added. "It's worth the investment."

Monday, Feb. 1, is the deadline for citizens to register to vote in the March 2 election. Voter registration forms are available at all Albany schools, the Albany Library and Albany City Hall.

—Marjorie Keck, Ann Berry, Bart Grossman



Police Reports

Robbers grab cash and fast food in KFC

By Dawn Frasier

ALBANY — At about 4:53 p.m. on Jan. 24, two unidentified men entered KFC, inquiring about a food purchase. One suspect then grabbed \$20 from the cash register; the second man grabbed food from a restaurant patron. Both men then fled.

• A Kensington woman reported that for the second time she was victimized by theft while dining at the Sizzler. This time, someone took the keys from her coat pocket between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Jan. 22.

• Two residential burglaries were reported. In one instance, the thief reached in the doggy door of the home, grabbed keys from the deadbolt lock, then used one to open a storage shed. The man took a power tool box from the shed but was startled by the victim and fled.

• In the second instance, someone took a bicycle from the basement and miscellaneous items from the residence between 11 a.m. and noon on Jan. 24. The incident occurred in the 1000 block of Neilson Street.

• An Albany pharmacist discovered that a patron was using stolen prescription blanks. The blanks had been taken from a San Pablo Pharmacy and had been used numerous times over the course of two months.

• A Berkeley man reported that his car had been stolen from Kains Avenue, south of Marin, sometime between Jan. 15 and 17.

• An electrical problem caused the smoke reported coming from a Sunday school classroom at First Baptist Church on the morning of Jan. 24.

• An Oakland woman was arrested Jan. 23 for shoplifting at

Safeway. The woman allegedly put 49 packs and two cartons of cigarettes in a cart, then hid them inside her clothing before attempting to exit.

• Two UC Village juveniles were contacted by an officer in the rear of Easy Mercedes, after the officer saw them throwing rocks at vehicle windows there. The incident occurred on the afternoon of Jan. 24.

• In other acts of vandalism, someone used black paint to spray graffiti on residential walls and a car in the 800 block of Hillside on the afternoon of Jan. 16.

• In the 700 block of Pierce Street, someone cut a garden hose in several pieces between Jan. 17 and 19.

• Someone took a cassette recorder from a counter at Marin School on the morning of Jan. 22.

• There were six auto burglaries reported.

• On Jan. 1, a car trunk was forced open in the west lot of Albany Bowl; miscellaneous items were stolen.

• Someone forced entry into a vehicle in the 1500 block of Albany Terrace on Jan. 18 and removed a car phone. During the previous night, someone had pried the lock of a vehicle in the 1100 block of Evelyn and cracked the steering wheel at the ignition. Despite a light prowl, however, nothing was taken.

• On Jan. 18, between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m., someone took a cellular phone from an Arrow Glass vehicle in the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue.

• Stereos were taken from vehicles in the 500 block of Pierce

Street during the night of Jan. 21 during the daytime on Jan. 22.

• The Albany Fire Department extinguished an engine fire in a block of Spokane on the afternoon of Jan. 18.

• A Berkeley man stopped speeding was arrested for two outstanding warrants — from the city and the Berkeley PD. An Oakland man was stopped at San Pablo and Gilman Jan. 19 and found to be wanted for an Albany warrant for \$1,043.

• One vehicle sustained minor damage in a non-injury collision on Marin and Curtis Street on Jan. 19. The drivers were Albany and Marin men.

• A Berkeley man reported a hit-and-run driver struck him while he was driving on 10th Avenue east of Peralta at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 17.

• On the afternoon of Jan. 19, a Cerrito man and an Antioch man were involved in a non-injury collision at Solano west of San Pablo. Both vehicles were towed.

• An Albany man and a Berkeley woman were driving cars that collided at Portland and Stannard.

• There were five arrests under the influence — a Berkeley Park man, a Vacaville man, a Berkeley man, an Emeryville woman and a Richmond man.

• Someone took the hubcap of a car parked in the 1100 block of Washington during the night of Jan. 8.

• A hood ornament was taken from a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Polk Street during the night of Jan. 23.

• A tree fell and blocked a roadway in the 500 block of Pierce Street on Jan. 17.

Masked man with a sawed-off shotgun steals purse

By Dawn Frasier

EL CERRITO — A Carlson Boulevard resident reported that as she was on her porch attempting to enter her home, a man approached, displaying a sawed-off shotgun, then demanded her purse. The suspect, who was wearing a black ski mask, fled northbound on Carlson in a 1970s red/brown Chevy El Camino.

• For the second time in recent weeks, a woman reported that she was approached by a man offering to sell \$100 worth of food stamps for a smaller amount of cash (in this case, \$25). In both cases, the women gave money to the suspect, who did not return with either the food stamps or change.

• An unknown man reportedly exchanged words with two men at Stockton and Alameda on Jan. 13, then took out a semi-automatic handgun and chambered a round.

• Several thefts were reported.

• Someone took a purse from under an office desk in the 6300 block of Norwell Street between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 12. A camcorder was taken from a Tehiyah Day School classroom between Dec. 18 and 21. A purse was taken from a bag in a shopping cart in the El Cerrito Plaza parking lot on the afternoon of Jan. 16.

• A car left for repairs at Randy's Auto Body had both its license plates stolen between Nov. 15 and Jan. 4.

• Four vehicles were reported

stolen: a 1985 Cadillac Sedan from the 5400 block of Barrett Avenue during the night of Jan. 9, a 1992 Honda Accord from the 1000 block of Navelier Street during the night of Jan. 14, a 1971 Toyota from the 5900 block of Alameda Avenue during the night of Jan. 16, and a 1986 Toyota S-10 pickup from a parking lot at San Pablo Avenue and Cutting Boulevard during the daytime on Jan. 20.

• There were three garage break-ins reported.

• During the night of Dec. 12, two garage door locks were broken with bolt cutters. A bike was taken from a garage in the 1600 block of Liberty Street; there was no loss from the other.

• Someone attempted to cut the lock of a garage in the 6500 block of Gladys Avenue but was unsuccessful.

• During the night of Jan. 14, someone took miscellaneous items from a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Norwell Street, while \$2 was taken from a car in the 1500 block of Richmond Street.

• Nothing was taken from a vehicle someone entered in the 11400 block of San Pablo Avenue on Jan. 18. The burglar smashed a window to gain entry but was unsuccessful in an attempt to remove the car's stereo.

• Miscellaneous items were taken from another car that evening. Three suspects fled in a vehicle, one by foot, after taking a stereo, a red marker was used to

cut graffiti on a residence in the 1100 block of Schmidt Lane, and a window was smashed in the block of Arlington Boulevard.

• A Richmond man was arrested at South 56th and Potrero at 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 22. The suspect was driving with no lights on and ran from police. The suspect was in possession of a stolen gun and reportedly driving under the influence.

• A man reportedly exposed himself to two women in the 600 block of Lexington on the evening of Jan. 14.

• There were five arrests for shoplifting at Emporium: a 16-year-old woman, two Albany women, and two Hercules juveniles. A 16-year-old woman was also arrested at Petfood Express.

Letters to the Editor

Get bad guys, not guns

Editor:

I deeply admire Councilmember Cathie Kosel's zeal to reduce gun violence. But is more gun control the answer? I think not. This country now has more gun control measures than ever before and the incidents of violent crimes are higher than ever. Doesn't that send a message? Gun control doesn't work. Why don't we try sending a different message? "If you use a gun in the commission of a crime you will go to jail for a very long time without possibility of parole."

Guns are not what citizens fear the most. Their fear is of the people who use them illegally. You know the ones I mean, the ones that we arrest time after time and then let go to commit the same crimes again.

Let's face it, citizens have become afraid. Why else have women been buying handguns in record numbers? To commit crimes? I doubt it. I believe that they fear the violence that awaits them on the street, not only from a gun-carrying criminal, but from the mugger and the thief. Studies show that children are arming themselves out of fear of school violence.

Who should be putting away, the guns or the bad guys? Put away the guns and you still have the bad guys that will continue to arm themselves. But put away the bad guys and the gun problem will take care of itself. Citizens won't buy guns because they won't be afraid anymore.

I hope our community leaders are not so naive as to think gun regulation is going to keep the guns out of the hands of a bad guy. A bad guy with a criminal record that wants a gun is not going to walk into a gun shop and try to buy one. Chances are he/she will buy one off the street and probably for less money. There is less paperwork and there

is no waiting period.

Please Ms. Kosel, spend your time and taxpayer money going after the real problem the bad guy. Let's get our law makers and judges to take the people we fear off the street. Let's send a message that using a gun illegally carries a big price. Let's give our streets back to the people. Let's stop reducing police services to the point that citizens feel that they must arm themselves because police responses and criminal punishment is no longer effective. Look at the statistics that show where gun regulation was reduced, violent crime went down. Instead of "infecting" enthusiasm for gun control, provide the "cure" for the "infection" of fear that resides in our community. Let's get the bad guys off the streets.

Lou Valterza

Mosque destruction

Editor:

This is the rejoinder to Mr. B. K. Gupta, the Consulate General of India, San Francisco's unstinted veiling on possible Indian government's indulgence in razing a Muslim mosque in Ayodhya, an Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Dec. 6, 1992. This is an open letter to Mr. "Consulate General."

Mr. Consulate General, the demolition of 16th century mosque was not an act of obstreperous mobs. Rather, it was a well-articulated and premeditated exertion by Hindu zealots possibly infused by high government officials. The malignant errand of desecration and demolition of the holy place continued for five consecutive hours in which miscreants even used bulldozers while security forces "watched."

Mr. Consulate General, if your "secular" Hindu

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The Journal

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Grappling with Graffiti

Spray-can art' comes to Albany

By Dave Greer

Back in the days when we all lived in caves instead of condos, somebody sketched an animal on a wall.

Some liked it and some didn't. Those who didn't rubbed it out or drew a drawing of their own over it. And things haven't changed much since.

As you read these words a young person is probably spray painting the wall of some building or other surface around town. And soon somebody else will either paint it out or put his own graffiti on top of it.

Yes, graffiti, part pop art, part art, has reared its Gorgonian head in Albany and is increasingly attracting attention and occasionally debate among civic leaders and concerned citizens.

Controversy has inevitably entered on the largest concentration of graffiti in the city: the south wall of the Albany High School gymnasium. This wall was designated as a "legal" area for graffiti on Oct. 2 at a Teen Fest sponsored by the Albany Prevention Council and the high school and middle school Parent Teacher Association.

The main purpose of the graffiti wall was to have activities for other than the use of drugs and "acco," says Jewel Okawachi, chair of the Prevention Council.

For decades Okawachi has been leader in efforts to help troubled youths. In a recent letter to *The Journal* she appealed for understanding of the wall as a much-needed outlet for the creative instincts of these youngsters.

"We are living in a different society today; our young people faced with problems that many

of us who went through the Albany schools and had our children go through the Albany schools cannot imagine."

Another reason for sanctioning one wall for graffiti is the commonly expressed hope that, "If they do it here they may not do it in other places." And to a certain extent this expectation has been justified.

"Last year (prior to the wall) our custodians were spending approximately 10 hours a week on graffiti inside the building, and now it isn't even an hour a week," says Albany High Principal Dr. Virginia Behm.

According to Behm, a strong advocate of the wall since its inception, the dozen or more graffiti artists or "writers" primarily involved now actively discourage the "non-educated scribblers" from defacing walls and rest rooms.

The "writers" are responsible for the stylized, comic-strip type figures and blocks of colorful, complex lettering which is generally incomprehensible to any but real graffiti buffs. These works are known as "pieces" — a shortening of the word "masterpiece" — and often exhibit considerable artistic talent.

Scrawled initials, obscenities, and gang related message are called "tags" and done by "taggers." Aside from defacing public places, they sometimes cover "pieces" and are resented by their creators as witnessed by this message on the wall a few weeks ago:

"There is a kind of an unwritten rule in graffiti that you don't cover someone's piece unless you're going to do something better."

Condemnation of the "tags" is

almost universal, but local opinion divides when it comes to the "pieces," and hence whether or not it is proper or even legal to sanction graffiti on a public building like the high school.

Superintendent of Schools J. Dale Hudson is fully aware of the controversy surrounding what he terms the "graffiti project." He has stated that its purpose is to "provide a legitimate art outlet for Albany High students during school hours, so as to eliminate illegal graffiti to the high school building. Last year, the district spent approximately \$15,000 for graffiti removal."

According to Hudson, mail to his office about the wall was at first mostly positive, then turned negative, and is currently about evenly divided. "Dr. Behm and I are monitoring and evaluating the graffiti wall on an on-going basis," he stated.

But many who attended the school themselves or lived here before graffiti came to town view the wall as a Trojan horse of urban culture alien to Albany. To them opposition to the wall is just part of the ongoing battle to remain a bastion of safety and sanity in an area increasingly racked by crime and violence.

Public opposition to the wall was first sounded by Rita Smith in a letter to *The Journal* which inspired a number of others in the same vein. A local real estate agent who was graduated from the school herself as were her children, Smith summed up much of the opposition to the wall.

"The wall is not a work of art. It looks as though we live in a ghetto. How do you tell them (the students) it's OK to write on the



The October Teen Fest is where the wall project began

Phyllis Lyon

Just a fad or a lasting art form?

The word "graffiti" is a plural noun in the original Italian and according to correct usage should take the plural form of the verb in English. However, common usage has once again overtaken the strict rules of grammar and the singular verb is now universally used.

Graffiti as we now know it had its origins in New York

City in 1960s. Teenagers scrawled their nicknames or "street names" on walls. Gangs identified their territory with it and warned off or challenged other gangs. To this day such "tags" are meant to be incomprehensible to the general public.

In the 1970s the "writers" discovered that the sides of subway cars connecting all five boroughs of the city would be

spray painted into moving advertisements for themselves.

The intense competition for space led to the development of more complex styles, three dimensional effects, comic book type characters, and bold experiments in color and size. By mid decade single writers or groups of them known as "crews" were covering entire

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a designated area and one that isn't," he said.

At the Teen Fest the following rules were posted for use of the wall: (1) No drugs slogans or emblems

(2) No obscenities
(3) No racial, ethnic or stereotyping slurs

(4) No gangs
Students were also told continued use of the wall was conditional upon keeping other walls "clean."

At present there are no signs at the wall to indicate that it has been authorized for the "exclusive" use of Albany High students and only during "normal" school hours as Supt. Hudson stated in a letter to Chief Murdo last week.

The chief believes this constitutes a "gray area" and that signs setting forth the rules are needed. The recent vandalism arrests there of four adults — each from a different East Bay city — at 1:05 a.m. highlighted this issue.

The Albany Graffiti Busters, a group dedicated to the removal of unauthorized graffiti, have officially taken a wait-and-see posi-

See GRAFFITI, page 4

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- Carlberg Jones

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Graffiti

Continued from page 3

tion concerning what they call the "experiment" on the gym wall. "However," they noted in a letter to Behm, "due to its size and visibility, the graffiti wall is a visual intrusion on passerby, park users, and neighbors."

Mark Freiberg chair of the group whose work was commended by a resolution of the City Council earlier this month, reports meeting with "eight or nine" of the graffiti artists. He feels there is now more mutual understanding, and that two of the youths volunteered to help clean up "on occasion."

Discussion as to what effect if any the wall had on other outside graffiti usually turns to neighboring Memorial Park. Although there are no statistics available, most observers agree that the advent of the graffiti wall has not markedly changed an already bad situation.

"The county has had to repaint the Veteran's Memorial Building a couple of times recently, and the trash cans and other surfaces cleaned up one day are often covered the next," according to Public Works Supt. Larry Garcia.

Jerry Vargas, the department's man in charge of the park, believes that there has been some increase in graffiti, but thinks it may have begun a month or so prior to activity on the gym wall.

"Graffiti arrests are up since this summer, and the courts are looking at them more seriously because of the cost factor," says Detective Sgt. Bill Palmini. Palmini keeps a close check on juvenile cases and is of the opinion that there may be more graffiti in the park now but less around town.

Wall buffs noted an increase in tagging on the wall over the Christmas vacation and a subsequent deterioration of its overall appearance. This has raised the question of what the situation will be there next summer when supervision and janitorial service are greatly reduced.

Kathy Mello, who has lived across from the park at 1318 Portland Ave. for 17 years believes there is presently less park graffiti. A former president of the high school's PTA, Mellow is a strong supporter of the wall — of which she has an excellent view. However, she feels that school authorities should have, "consulted the community more in the first place."

Some observers think a city-wide crack down on graffiti in Berkeley which has kept the tunnel east of Solano Avenue clean since September has driven young perpetrators into Albany. If so, further anti-graffiti campaigns now planned in Berkeley and Oakland could exacerbate the problem here.

Although the graffiti wall at the high school has in general remained within the school's guidelines, there have been exceptions. The "F" word has appeared occasionally along with the "B" word — Berkeley.

And taggers have defaced the pavement in front of the wall, out onto the basketball courts, and up along the east side of the building. The nearby tennis court practice board remains a favorite target.

Gang graffiti has not materialized — there are said to be no gangs in Albany at present — but some tempers have been rising of late as witnessed by this message "Punk! come face 2 face you know who I am."

Wall buffs noted an increase in tagging on the wall over the Christmas vacation and a subsequent deterioration of its overall appearance. This has raised the question of what the situation will be there next summer when supervision and janitorial service are greatly reduced.

Opinions vary as to the success of the graffiti wall and whether or not it should be continued. Educators and those working with troubled youths are generally in favor of it. Student Assistance Program Coordinator Ralph Cantor considers it so successful he would like to see the two nearby walls also devoted to graffiti.

Recognizing the need for legitimate artistic outlets, many opposing the wall suggest that graffiti be incorporated in various school projects as it was in the recent musical, "Into the Woods." Here graffiti writers, working under the supervision of art teacher Ed Hill, created an impressive backdrop.

Streets of plywood or rolls of butcher paper have also been mentioned as alternatives to an exterior graffiti wall. In their letter to Behm, the Albany Graffiti Busters addressed the school's problem in dismounting the tiger — or tagger — of graffiti:

"Now that graffiti has been sanctioned on this wall, we would understand how difficult it would be to take away this 'privilege' from the students without graffiti appearing elsewhere in the school."

"Should you decide it appropriate to discontinue the graffiti wall, we would suggest that it evolve into a legitimate art project such as an annual senior class mural in which the students may take both pride of authorship and responsibility for maintenance.

"Of course any sanctioned project on such a highly visible surface should be approved by the school board, with input solicited from neighbors and park users."

Fad?

Continued from page 3

sides of subway cars with these "pieces."

In the early '90s the Hip Hop movement, which included break dancing and rap music, spread graffiti across America, Europe, and to other parts of the world. Graffiti was hailed as a new art form, and some of its practitioners joined the "establishment" and became famous.

In Europe the Amsterdam Dutch were first and foremost in welcoming graffiti. The trend has continued, and visitors there in the last several years report that great numbers of the beautiful old buildings, some dating back to the 17th century, are now covered with it.

In this country graffiti has had a mixed reception with efforts to control it varying at different times and in different cities. Some, like Philadelphia, have even commissioned street artists to paint graffiti murals in exchange for an end to their illegal efforts.

Graffiti seems to have been on the rise in the Bay Area at present. The San Francisco Chronicle recently reported that, "Street art has become a major new movement for members of the art student avant-garde who range from self-proclaimed revolutionaries and African American nationalists to figurative painters concerned

with nature and animal life."

Last Spring, Berkeley, long known for its political graffiti, began cracking down hard. Under auspices of the Berkeley Oakland Support Services, the homeless will be hired to augment city crews in the cleanup.

Though racked by drugs, murders, and drive-by shootings, Oakland has announced plans for a massive graffiti cleanup including rapid response painting units, police surveillance cameras, and civil penalties for property owners who do not remove graffiti soon after notification.

And earlier this month the Albany City Council considered an anti-graffiti resolution proposed by the Albany Graffiti Busters. The council stopped short of adopting the resolution, but directed the city administrator and appropriate staff to work with the group on the issue.

In addition, letters are to be sent out to the owners of buildings defaced by graffiti suggesting they remove it in a timely manner. Those unable to do so due to physical or financial limitations are encouraged to contact the Albany Graffiti Busters or other local volunteer groups.

Former mayor injured by bus

By Phyllis Lyon

ALBANY — Former mayor Henry Kruse was struck by a car at the corner of San Pablo and University avenues in Berkeley on Jan. 19 while on his way to a computer class at Vista College.

Kruse, a teacher at the Orientation Center for the Blind in Albany, suffered multiple fractures of the left leg and a broken arm. The longtime Albany citizen was rushed to Highland Hospital, notable as an advanced trauma facility, for emergency treatment and subsequently transferred to Kaiser Hospital in Oakland where he will remain for an as yet undetermined period of recovery.

Kruse was elected to the Albany City Council in 1982 and served as mayor in 1985 and 1989. A strong force on the council to create the new Library/Community Center, he is chairman of the Community Center Builders, a group of volunteer library supporters and an active member of the Albany Library Board.

Kruse, who lives on Stamps Way Avenue, is past president and an active member of the Albany Lions Club, a Melvin Jones Fellow of Lions International and belongs to Joaquin Miller Chapter of E Clampus Vitus, among many other honors and affiliations.

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Bobby Barrett tribute slated

A musical tribute to the memory of Bobby N. Barrett, director of bands at St. Mary's College High School for 28 years, will be held Feb. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Shea Student Center on campus.

Among Bay Area musicians taking part will be former Barrett music students Tommy McElroy, Bob Calonico, Casey Filson, Nat Courtney, John Miller, Art Davis and Jim Stenson.

For more information call 559-6216.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM CENTURY CABLE

CENTURY CABLE of Northern California

January 1993

Dear Century Cable Customer:

On February 1, 1993, Century Cable will implement a series of changes that will affect the channel line-up and monthly rates. While some of these changes may be a little confusing at first, we are confident that in the long run they will provide improved value and a service that is easier to use.

Just in case you haven't had a chance to read the letter we mailed you, I have summarized the changes below. As always, if you have any questions regarding these changes or any aspect of our service, please feel free to give us a call.

NEW PACKAGING

The channels previously found on the Gold Tier (CNN, USA, ESPN, WTBS, MTV, Nashville Network, Nickelodeon and Arts & Entertainment) will now be included on the Expanded Silver Tier. The monthly rate for the Silver Tier will be \$5.00 per month and will contain a total of 23 channels. Since the Gold Tier channels will no longer be "scrambled", customers who subscribe to the Gold Tier but do not have any premium services (i.e., HBO, Showtime, Disney) will not need to use the Jerrid converter. However, in order to receive all channels your TV or VCR must be cable compatible or receiving at least 55 cable channels. The owners' manuals for the TV or VCR will indicate exactly what your channel capacity is.

NEW RATES

The monthly rate for Basic Cable will remain \$16.95 for 22 channels. The Silver Tier rate will go from \$2.00 for 15 channels to \$5.00 for 23 channels as we add the 8 channels from the Gold Tier. Gold Tier will no longer be available and the monthly charge of \$4.00 per month for that service will be deleted from your monthly statement. The combined Basic and Silver Tier will contain 45 channels for \$21.95 per month. The same package was previously \$25.95, with the converter rental charges.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

The impact of these changes depends on the level of service you currently subscribe to. The letter mailed to your home describes the various options. Included with that letter was a **NEW CHANNEL LINEUP CARD**. In order to accommodate any equipment returns, we will temporarily extend our office hours. For the first two weeks in February (February 1-12), our office hours will be Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 7 pm. We will be open Saturday, February 6 from 9 am to 1 pm. Our office address is:

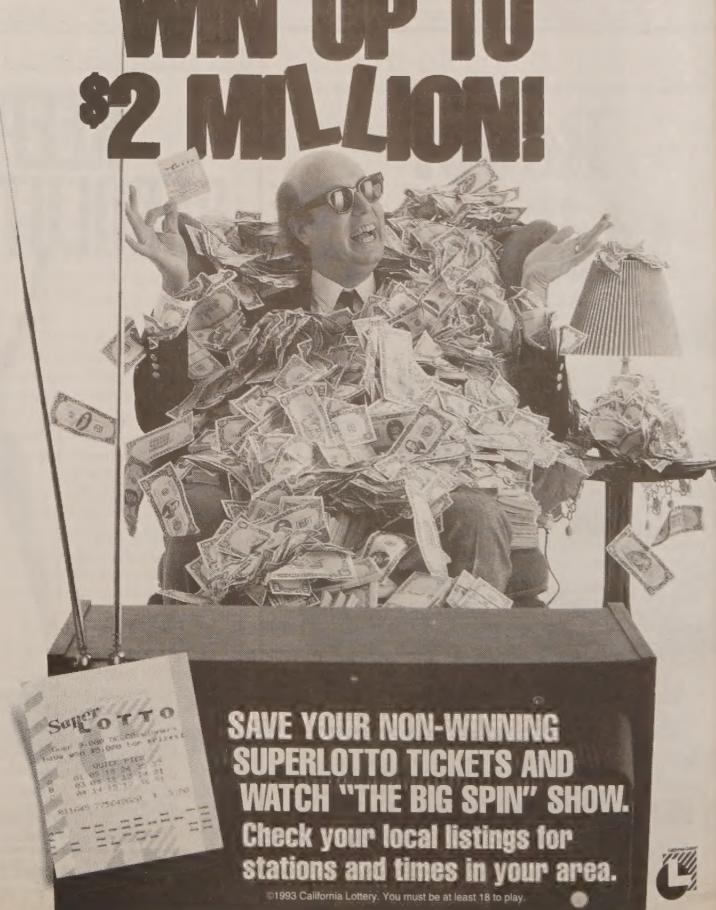
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If you have any questions regarding the described changes, please feel free to contact our office at 525-9567.

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Jeffrey Butler
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El Cerrito Newsline

Deadline for waste management task force looms

By Eileen Duffy

In December the El Cerrito City Council approved the formation of an Integrated Waste Task Force. This task force will advise the City Council and staff on recycling and waste management issues.

Citizen Volunteers Provide Valuable Advice

The El Cerrito City Council actively seeks input from citizens on a variety of issues. Over the last few years, citizens have advised the City Council about the level of service from recreation to police — they want from the city, and they have suggested methods of raising revenues to maintain these services. They have examined the development program and suggested some changes.

Since 1979, there have been two citizen advisory groups on the recycling issue alone. Their advice was critical to the production of the Source Reduction and Recycling Element, a state-mandated component of the county's IWM Plan.

Waste management has become the hot topic of the '90s. We realize how important waste management is when landfills are full and new ones are difficult or impossible to place. Who wants a landfill in their backyard?

State mandates to reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfills lends an air of urgency to the issue of waste management. By 1995, all California cities and counties must divert 25 percent of their waste from landfills — in other words, recycle 25 percent more — or face fines of \$10,000 a day. The diversion rate rises to 50 percent by the year 2000.

El Cerrito is well on its way to meeting the 1995 goal, but the 50 percent goal will be much more difficult. That is why citizen input is so important.

The City Council wishes to emphasize education and public information programs and the council believes the Task Force will be able to lend valuable



assistance in this area.

IWM Task Force

As of this writing, four applications have been received by the city clerk for the IWM Task Force. Three more applications have been requested. There is still time to apply for this important and challenging volunteer position.

It is expected that the IWM Task Force will meet in the evenings on a monthly basis when the City Council wants advice and a recommended course of action on specific issues. The anticipated life of the IWM Task Force is two to four years.

The charge to the IWM Task Force will be to:

1. Evaluate and advise the council on waste management programs and opportunities to coordinate with other groups and jurisdictions.

2. Evaluate and advise the council on the benefits and disadvantages both programmatically and economically of city-operated recycling services in comparison to contracted or franchised services.

3. Evaluate and advise the council on the current garbage ordinance for consistency with new integrated waste management legislation, state rules and mandated goals.

4. Evaluate both existing programs and those programs identified in the City Source Reduction and Recycling Element for future implementation and advise the council regarding their appropriateness in the current context.

5. Evaluate and recommend education and public information programs.

6. Other issues as may be assigned by the City Council from time to time.

For More Information

If you are an El Cerrito resident, we invite you to apply for this important volunteer position. Additional information and applications may be obtained from Linda Giddings, City Clerk. The deadline for applying for the IWM Task Force is Jan. 29, but you may request an extension by that date. You may pick up an application at the City Clerk's office located at 10890 San Pablo Ave. or call 215-4300 for an application.

Albany fire department offering safety education

ALBANY — The following public education classes will be offered by the city fire department:

- CPR: Feb. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; \$30 (lunch included).
- Home Safety: Feb. 6, 8:45 a.m. to noon; free.

- First Aid: Feb. 6, 1 to 5 p.m.; free.

The free water heater strapping service offered by the department is ongoing. Also ongoing is the smoke detector in-

stallation program. Cost per alarm is \$7.

The department will also accept leftover paint.

For information on any of these programs call 528-5771.

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465-2188



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Jack London Square, at the foot of Broadway in Oakland

Albany Newsline

Get involved at the Albany Town Meeting this week

By Daren Fields

The Albany City Council will be holding Town Hall meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. — 1 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building in Memorial Park. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Here is your opportunity to meet your City Council and city staff. The Town Hall meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss Albany's current fiscal situation, to receive community input on the services the city provides, and to help formulate the city's goals for the 1993-94 fiscal year.

In addition, the Town Hall meeting is the start of the process which will result in the adoption of next fiscal year's budget.

Like many cities, Albany has been negatively affected by the State of California budget crisis and the continuing economic slowdown. In response, last year the City Council cut \$287,000 from the city's



budget. As the year progressed it became clear that Albany's revenue would decline by an additional \$625,000. As a result, the City Council took the following actions:

- Eliminated or left vacant the equivalent of eight full-time positions
- Increased the property transfer tax from \$4.40 to \$6.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation
- Expanded the utility users tax to include interstate and international phone calls.

In addition, a 1 percent increase in the utility users tax is planned for July 1, 1993.

All indications are that the state's budget crisis is only going to get worse. This year's proposed state budget will take away an additional \$400,000 to \$850,000 in local property tax revenue from Albany.

The Town Hall meeting will begin with a series of presentations on Albany's financial situation. We will then break down into groups to discuss fiscal issues, city services and 1993-94 city goals. Afterward there will be an informal question and answer period with council and staff over lunch.

For more information, please call the Administration Department at 528-5710.

Study of police consolidation continues

By Dawn Frasleur

EL CERRITO — Talks are continuing between the cities of El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, and the town of Kensington in an effort to see what police services might be combined to save costs and provide better services.

El Cerrito Police Chief Dan Givens told the City Council at a recent study session on police dispatch that bettering communications possibilities has been the focal point for discussion so far and that participants see it as a reasonable beginning point.

"Now we're talking about a first step only," he said. "We'll bring plans in increments."

Givens also said that while, originally, efficiency and cost-savings had been the emphasis, now the "spirit of working together and of cooperation" have become central.

But another root for the discussion has been the rising cost of purchasing and maintaining new communications equipment, he said.

"As we get into new technologies and equipment needs to be upgraded," said Givens, the new

plan should provide the funding necessary, since regular budgeting will be a part of the cooperative process.

Givens told the council that in a recent takeover bank robbery and freeway pursuit, four different jurisdictions were involved, with Richmond and the county taking over dispatch. While he believes that the centralizing of that communication effort at the two points helped in leading to the apprehension of the suspects and the lack of any police injuries, "I believe it would have been even better with one communication center," he said.

Those kinds of issues are even more important for Givens than cost considerations, though the talks originally began as one response to the financial crunch all local jurisdictions are now facing.

"Even if it were not for the cost savings...I might very well be standing up here recommending this anyway, because of the efficiency and officer safety issues," he said.

Givens also reported that all negotiating parties were in agreement that savings generated by the joint communication effort would be put into a radio equipment maintenance fund in Richmond and would not go into their general fund.

Council reaction was generally positive.

"With the savings on this, there's no way we can't go with it," said Councilmember Jane Bartke, while Councilmember Norma Jellison said, "We want to go slowly, but where there are (such) savings, we would be foolish not to take advantage of (the plan)."

Jellison also praised the tenor of the discussion between the four jurisdictions, noting that cities were being kept well-advised of the progress of the talks, "so we can be participants in what's occurring."

Mayor Mae Ritz, however, said she would want to draw the line on joint services if any loss of police patrol identity occurred. (According to Jellison and Givens, both Richmond and San Pablo share the same concern.)

"We have listed five goals for integration of police services that would apply no matter how little or how much we decide to work together," Givens responded. "Not meeting any one of the goals would put the integration in jeopardy."

Maintaining local community identity is one of those stated goals, he said.

"There's nothing...we have discussed so far that would take us off of that...primary goal," he said.

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Youngsters reveal love for poetry on cable program

By Julie Freestone

Poet Maya Angelou, who read at the Presidential inaugural last week, has nothing on the artists who come through a small television studio in the East Bay every week, reciting great works.

It will be awhile before any of them achieve Angelou's stature, but to the youngsters who appear on *Wee Poets*, a public access television poetry program for children 7 to 13 years old, that hardly matters.

"Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be the sun, be a star," recited 6-year-old Jeffrey Gatlin on a recent show, explaining his mother Latanga Hopes had written the verse, called "The World of Martin Luther King," to stress how important it is to be whatever you can be.

The show, staffed completely by volunteers and funded by donations, is the brainchild of Sally Baker, a secretary at the University of California who has hosted the public television event for nine years. The program's Feb. 2 anniversary will be celebrated on the air on Feb. 16.

A fundraiser, the showing of the movie *Othello*, celebrating Black History month and benefiting *Wee Poets*, will be held this Monday at the Kabuki 8 Theater in San Francisco at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Each program features 15 minutes of youngsters reciting poems of their choice, followed by a guest, sometimes with a message of importance to young viewers. Over the years, guests have included ventriloquists, bakers and police officers.

"The guest always teaches something," Baker said.

Baker's motivation for bringing the program to about 30,000 listeners throughout the Bay Area is simple.

"It's my determination to help kids develop reading and writing skills and build self-esteem," she said. She is so committed to that goal that she has recently taken a leave of absence from her job to pursue trying to get the show syndicated on commercial television.

Self assurance was very much in evidence when the youngsters appeared. They sat quietly waiting for their turn on the air, absorbing the sights and sounds of the studio. They waited patiently as director Harold Plummer and assistant director Adnan Touma struggled with some technical difficulties.

Baker, sitting with the kids, introduced the show, telling listeners she's always looking for new guests.

"So have your parents or teachers call me," she urged.

Then it was time for the young poets, this time from Golden Gate School in Oakland. Gatlin explained he likes school, his favorite subject is reading and he likes to go out for pizza.

When he forgot his lines while reciting, Baker encouraged him to start again, which he did — with the same degree of feeling and enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, director Plummer, who works full time for AT&T, was calling commands to his teen-age camera crew.

"You're live, two. Pull back,

hold the shot," Plummer said, directing the action on the set.

Filipe Paz, a 13-year-old Berkeley student and Drew Campbell, a 13-year-old from Albany, were working the cameras, wearing headsets and listening attentively to the directions from Plummer. Over the years, a number of the young camera operators have gone on to professional television careers.

Paz's brothers worked on the show before he did and suggested he appear as a young poet. Eventually he became floor manager.

When it was Gwendolyn Clark's turn, the 7-year-old recited a poem called "Still I'll Rise," aptly chosen for a week when Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is being celebrated.

"Do you want to see me broken? Does my haughtiness offend you? ... You may shoot me with your words, but still, like air, I'll rise."

Lifting her arms to show her ascent, Clark's impassioned recitation of a sophisticated poem reflected her understanding of the words she was saying.

"I am the dream, the hope of the slave, I rise, I rise, I rise," she concluded, explaining it had taken her three days to learn the poem. An experienced orator who recites in church, Clark said her plan was to become a police officer.

Harriet Tubman was the topic of Monique Batiste's colloquial poem, delivered in a peppy fashion. "Harriet Tubman didn't take no stuff, Harriet Tubman wasn't scared of nothing neither, didn't



come into the world to be no slave...she ran away looking for her freedom," said the 7-year-old.

Watching their children from outside the studio, the mothers praised the value of the show.

Latanga Hopes, who said she tries to emphasize to her son how important poetry is for expressing feelings, felt the experience was very useful.

"He gets identity. The whole experience hopefully will be good, will give him determination. At least that's what I'm promoting," she said.

Wee Poets is shown Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7 p.m. on Bay Vision East, Channel 8, El Cerrito, Richmond and Berkeley and Channel 32 in Oakland and San Francisco. For more information about appearing on the show or about the *Othello* fundraiser, call 848-6905.



Top photo: Jeffrey Gatlin, Gwendolyn Carter and Monique Batiste at "Wee Poets"; above: Adnan Touma, Felipe Paz and Harold Plummer handle cameras

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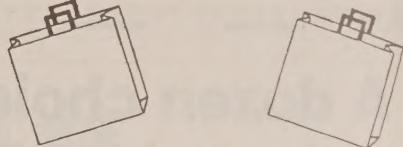
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Smokeless businesses report positive feedback from clients

Phyllis Lyon

ALBANY — As of Feb. 3, Albany will be a no-smoking town. To ease the transition to a smoke-free business, the city council last Thursday sponsored an informational breakfast at the Royal Cafe.

Albany business owners who soon be hanging up the "No Smoking" signs.

Following an overview of the new anti-smoking ordinance by councilmember Thelma Rubin, a panel of business leaders, who banned smoking before passage of the ordinance, related their experiences.

"We've been 100 percent smoke-free for three years and set aside a smoking section for 10 years before that," Carol

Merle Sapp, owner of the Taco

Walker, co-owner with brother Doug Walker of Walker's Pie Shop on Solano Avenue, told the group.

"We've had no negative feedback," she said. Walker said they had gone smoke-free because staff members were reluctant to serve in the smoking section.

"We have gone non-smoking for our customer's enjoyment," said Don Markert, safety director for Ladbroke Racing at Golden Gate Fields. Of the 400,000 sq. ft. of public area, smoking is allowed inside only at the Turf Club bar, but is still permitted outside in the grandstand.

The non-smoking policy began after complaints from a customer and also a parimutuel clerk, Markert said.

Merle Sapp, owner of the Taco

Bell on San Pablo, said he had banned smoking in his restaurant because of complaints by his customers. "And we had the greatest year ever after we stopped the smoking," Sapp said.

After Feb. 3 smoking is prohibited inside all Albany restaurants, workplaces and enclosed areas used by the general public. Vending machines and giving away free tobacco samples is banned. Smoking and vending machines are allowed only in bars.

Cecilia Runkle, health education expert from Kaiser, and Mark Pertshuk, co-director of Americans for Non-Smokers rights, also spoke on the legal and practical aspects of becoming a 100 percent smoke-free business at the breakfast meeting.



Tom Butt and Garrett Schlegel recently reaped the rewards of the dedication to Scouting

Action on shoreline park will be low key for next few months

Julie Freestone

It has been four weeks since Assembly bill 754 became law and assigned the lead for developing the State Park with the East Bay Regional Park District, but RPD officials say it will be months before the public sees or anything related to the project.

The bill, backed by Assemblyman Tom Bates, was intended to expedite the project by removing it

from state jurisdiction and putting it under EBRPD control. The plans for the park, which will run along the shoreline from Richmond to Emeryville, have already been tentatively drafted.

But anyone expecting immediate results is probably going to be disappointed.

"The park district is sensitive to people. We know they've waited a long time. But we're trying not to raise people's expectations. We want to do a first-class job. We

don't want to rush it," said Ro Aguilar, EBRPD's legislative assistant.

What that means is first the district will develop and sign a memorandum of understanding with the state department of parks detailing what Aguilar calls "nitty gritty" administrative procedures.

That agreement will cover such things as who has the power to release funds for acquiring park land, who has approval power and who will administer the money.

"There will be very little visibility," said Aguilar about that phase, which is in process.

The next step will also be low profile, since it concerns reviewing existing studies about toxics issues related to potential park land. Aguilar says some studies have been done and more may be required.

Some of the land proposed to be included in the park was used for dumping and may involve toxic wastes.

Troop 104 names new Eagles

Boy Scout Troop 104 honored its newest Eagle Scouts on Dec. 22, at Camp Herms in El Cerrito. Last year was a banner year for the troop, which produced six new Eagles, a number not equalled since 1952.

Garrett Schlegel and Andrew Butt were the troop's 53rd and 54th candidates to be recognized at the special Eagle Court ceremony which has been a tradition since the founding of Troop 104 in 1939.

Garrett Schlegel, 18, earned 23 merit badges including Camping and Canoeing. He held several leadership positions such as Patrol Leader and Quartermaster; and most of all just the thought of knowing that however long you were in Scouts you, improved the environment around you.

Garrett is currently going to Diablo Valley College, and working at Lakeridge Athletic Club. He plans to become a Physical Therapist. He is the son of Linda and Gene Schlegel of Pinole. Gene Schlegel is a former Scoutmaster of Troop 104.

Andrew Butt, 18, joined the troop in 1987. He amassed 21 merit badges including First Aid and Environmental Science. Patrol Leader and Scribe were among his leadership positions. Andrew has also been a part of many community service projects in El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Oakland and Point Richmond helping to beautify and

improve parks and recreational areas.

Garrett joined Club Pack 104 in 1984 as a Webelo. He said it was tough at times to stick with Scouting, but through it all he has had no regrets, Garrett states. "I realized that Boy Scouts had no real down-side. It taught leadership, necessary skills to become a well-rounded person, maturity, and most of all just the thought of knowing that however long you were in Scouts you, improved the environment around you.

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improve parks and recreational areas.

His Eagle project involved the various aspects of planting 150 oak seedlings on hillsides in El Sobrante. This included supervising, preparation, planting and protecting the young seedlings.

Andrew, in addition to Scouting, participated in El Cerrito High School soccer, yearbook, and French Club.

About Scouting, Andrew comments, "Scouting will always mean a great deal to me and it is a big part of my life. When I am older I would like to try to remain involved in either my own troop or another, and offer my services to Scouting since it has given so much to me."

Andrew is now a student at the University of Arkansas majoring in architecture. He is the son of Shirley and Tom Butt of Point Richmond.

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Albany Chamber of Commerce

New martial arts studio opens on Solano Avenue

By Fern Luoma

Having earned a BA in philosophy and a masters degree in computer science, Thomas Winkler-Parenty has always been interested in martial arts, enough to start his own business teaching in fall 1992.

A native of Massachusetts, Tom visited the Bay Area several times and decided to move here to be near his fiance, Helena, whom he married four years ago.

While living in the Midwest and on the east coast in the late '70s, Tom started practicing martial arts and continues to practice today. Two years ago he decided to teach and searched the East Bay thoroughly for the right location. He found Jeanne Yea's newly renovated building at 1229 Solano Ave.

"Since many martial arts schools are located in questionable neighborhoods where one might feel he needs to take lessons before attending the first class, I truly wanted to open a school where students will feel comfortable and safe attending day or evening classes," Tom stated.

He says his school is traditional in terms of Chinese martial arts schools.

The school has a main training room and a separate room for private practice at no extra fee. Adults are taught Tai Chi and children under 15 years of age are taught Choy Li Fut Kung Fu.



Thomas Winkler-Parenty

Learning martial arts is a way for both children and adults to improve their health, self-esteem and self defense.

It pleases Tom to observe children learning to build coordination, agility and strength.

His youth students learn not to practice on others at school or play, but learn awareness and training if approached by strangers.

There are different martial arts forms for children such as dragon, tiger and leopard techniques.

Also, students are taught flips, somersaults, kicking, jumping and tumbling.

They are taught various hand moves and stances which give a cultural exposure they would not have otherwise.

Designed for adults, Tai Chi is an excellent workout without putting out an extraordinary amount of strain.

Tai Chi has been used for hundreds of years to build up energy and reduce tension, and traditionally help with stress-related diseases.

Lessons are moderately priced and include a family plan special fee. For information on the school, phone 527-1606.

Day at the Races

Ten Albany nonprofit organiza-

tions will be selling Albany Day at the Races tickets with each ticket giving free admission, free reserved seating, a great discount at Gina's Pizza and Italian Food restaurant and the opportunity to win a major prize.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Monies raised will be used for each group's special projects.

The drawing will be held March 6 at Golden Gate Fields.

Those participating are the Albany YMCA, Albany Athletic Boosters, Albany Children's Center, Solano Avenue Association, Albany Lions and Lioness clubs, Veterans of Foreign Wars Albany Post 2658, Albany Rotary, Albany Little League and the Albany Chamber of Commerce.

Other Albany organizations and school clubs may participate. Information is available at the Chamber of Commerce. Phone 525-1771.

Taxes!

Now that it is the beginning of tax preparation time, the Chamber of Commerce has been asked for tax preparers.

The Chamber recommends Walt Sears, Lawrence Associates, Harry Rabin Company, Complete Tax Solutions and The Numbers Game.

For information on any of these call the Chamber office at 525-1771.

Get well

Speedy recovery wishes are sent to J. Henry Kruse Jr. and Golden Gate Lioness Club Past President Ruth Call, who are recuperating, one from injuries and one from surgery.

Former Albany mayor and past president of the Albany Lions Club Kruse is recovering at Kaiser Hospital from an accident which caused a broken leg and shoulder.

Call is at home recuperating from foot surgery.

Accompanist needed for local chorus

With all the horror and upheaval in the world today, the problems of the Berkeley Women's Chorus are small indeed. But to the members of the chorus, which has been singing for nigh onto 50 years, they are major.

Through the years the chorus membership has changed, as indeed it must, the directors have changed, and the accompanists have changed. All have spent years lovingly participating in one of the most soul-satisfying pastimes — singing.

And now the Berkeley Women's Chorus (which meets in Albany and includes members from Richmond, El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley and Oakland) is looking for a new accompanist. Tane Nutting, who has been accompanying the singers for the last few years, wants to go on to other things. She will be missed. But she is staying on until a replacement can be found, which isn't as easy as it sounds.

Accompanists are very special people. Besides being fine piano players they must have patience and understanding, working with each part as the singers learn the harmony. Their reward comes in the great appreciation members of the chorus show for that patience, understanding and mastery of the instrument, and in a very small token payment they receive from the chorus.

The chorus is made up of very interesting women, many of whom have been singing there for more years than they care to count, and some of whom are quite new but already fiercely loyal. Most of them are very active in other ways, such as Jeanette Sarno, who, at 80 plus still sings, bowls, ushers for plays and heaven knows what else.

Or Theo Collins, who is presently one of the principals in

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser



"You Can't Take It With You" at Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Theo acts and directs in many of the little theaters in the East Bay and is known to the wide audiences the productions attract.

And there is Dorothy Ruthnick, who is active in the Richmond community, including the Richmond Museum. And Clara-Rae Genser who writes the column Community Folk for the Journal. And, of course, Callie Greer, the director, who until recently was minister of music for her North Richmond church, who plays for events there, and gives piano lessons to many of the local children.

Well, you get the picture. Active, interesting and interested people who love to sing and love singing together. Many travel a lot, but always hurry back to the chorus upon their return.

The chorus sings for people in convalescent hospitals, nursing homes, and senior residences.

And each year they do a Christmas concert for the women's group in the Berkeley church of member Betty Tipton. But mostly they sing just because they love it. All they need now is an accompanist — plus they welcome new members. So if you are a pianist who loves music and loves people who love music, we'd love to hear from you. And if you love to sing, come join us.

We meet every Thursday morning in a room at the First Baptist Church of Albany, at 1319 Solano Avenue, at 10 a.m. Or call our director, Callie Greer, at 233-8761. When I left the group early last Thursday they were singing "Simple Gifts," the song sung by Marilyn Horne so beautifully at the Inaugura-

tion. And a lovely sound it was.

New for NIAD

Congratulations to NIAD, National Institute of Arts and Disabilities, who have just opened a satellite gallery and shop, The Creative Spirit, in Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco.

NIAD plans The Creative Spirit to be a showcase for art created by artists from the National Institute of Art and Disabilities as well as artists working in other centers in the Bay Area and other parts of the United States and Europe, the notice uses.

The first exhibit will be "Artists of NIAD," from Feb. 1 to March 31, with the opening held Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. The National Institute of Art & Disabilities (NIAD) is an art center, located in Richmond for adults with disabilities.

It provides a studio in which work, and a gallery and gift shop. NIAD actively promotes the exhibition and sale of the art work created by the artists at the institute, says the organization brochure. It is thrilling to see these disabled people, who in with no background in art, become true artists. Their joy and creativity are wonderful. They welcome visitors to their studio, 551 23rd St. in Richmond.

Thank you, members of the Berkeley Women's Chorus for asking me to send out your message. I loved doing it. And invite all of you to give me your input — interesting people, events, organizations, travel. Write to me at 555 Pierce Street, No. 443, Albany 94706 or call 525-4585.

Obituary

Adeline Sategna

Longtime Albany resident Adeline Sategna died Jan. 18 in Walnut Creek. She was 90.

Services were held Jan. 21 at Sunview Mortuary in El Cerrito.

She was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Berkeley, order of the Sons of Italy and the Fratellanza Women's Club.

Mrs. Sategna was the wife of the late Constanti Sategna. She is survived by a son, James Sategna, M.D., of Lafayette and a daughter, Marie Perkins of Belmont. She was preceded in death by her daughter Pierina Eason. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

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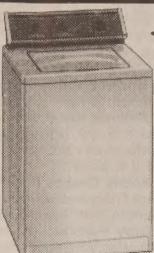
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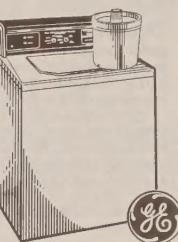
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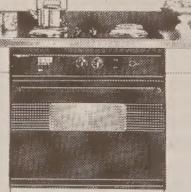
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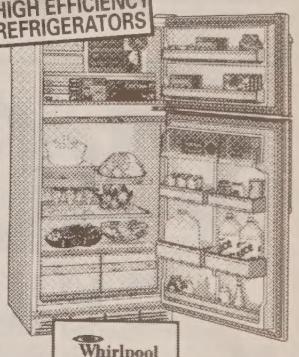
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Goings on About Town

Performances

Ibsen Women is a one-woman review by Norwegian actress Juni Dahr. Her performances, sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Berkeley Rep, and UCB department of dramatic art, will take place at Durham Studio Theatre at UC-Berkeley, Feb. 3-5 at 8 p.m. Call 845-4700 for tickets.

Chamber Music Sundaes presents the Donatello String Quartet performing works by Hindemith, Janacek, and Beethoven Jan. 31, 3 p.m. at Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 84-JULIA.

Theater of the Blue Rose performs Chekhov's "The Sea Gull" Jan. 29-30 and Feb. 5-6, 12-13 at 8 p.m. Feb. 14 performance at 3 p.m. \$5; no reservations. 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 540-5037.

Berkeley Contemporary Opera presents "Candide," with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Richard Wilbur, through Jan. 30. 84-JULIA.

"You Can't Take It With You" is at Contra Costa Civic Theatre Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 27; matinees Feb. 7, 14 and 21. 524-9132.

MusicSources presents 18th and 19th century chamber music with Anthony Martin and Elisabeth LeGul on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. \$15/\$12. 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley. Reserve at 528-1685.

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley's production of the humorous drama "Uncommon Women and Others" continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 20; special performance Thursday, Feb. 18. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 528-5620.

Ashkenazi hosts tonight, Jan. 28. Tracy Schwarz, 9 p.m.; \$6; Jan. 29: Wazobia, 11:30 p.m. and Santa Cruz Steel, 9:30 p.m.; \$7; Jan. 30: Johnny Nocturne Band, 9:30 p.m.; \$8; Jan. 31: Handsome Poets, Ya Li Yattem, Vox Humana, \$6-\$10; Feb. 2: Jazzyer, 9 p.m., preceded by Greek dance lesson, 8 p.m.; \$5; Feb. 3: Bayou Pon Pon, 9 p.m., \$5; 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 525-5054.

Wednesday noon concerts at Hertz Hall, UC-Berkeley, continue with Michael Agnew, flute; Bill Cullingford, oboe; Laurie San Martin, clarinet; Amy Kilbourne, bassoon; Brian Volkman, horn, playing Mozart and Shostakovich, Jan. 27, 12:15-1 p.m. Free. 642-4864.

Freight and Salvage—tonight, Jan. 28: Don Henry; Feb. 1: Jim Carter's Sing-Along-Athon; Feb. 2: Michael McNevin; Feb. 3: Bill White's Birthday Celebration. Doors open 7:30 p.m.; music at 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 548-1761.

Berkeley Theater Project presents "The Fever," by Wallace Shawn, performed by Aaron Davidman, Thursday through Saturday Jan. 29 through Feb. 20. 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 528-1-BTP.

La Pena presents Ballet Folklórico Quetzalli on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 1 p.m.

\$6/\$3. Jan. 28: Grupo Muy Muy's cassette release party, 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10; Jan. 29: Flamenco Ole, 8:30 p.m., \$12. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 849-2558.

Kimball's East, Hugh Masekela, through Jan. 31; Kronos Quartet performs Feb. 3-7, 5800 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 658-2555.

Big White Fog continues Black Repertory Group's 28th production season through Feb. 7, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 652-2120/652-4017.

At Berkeley Rep: Volpone \$23-\$31. 2025 Addison. 849-4700.

Clemont Hotel, Terrace Bar presents Thursday, Jan. 28: Bing's "Swingin' Thing"; Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29-30:

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Subterranean Shakespeare will read "Hamlet" directed by Stan Spenger and Jon Gordon on Monday, Feb. 1, at La Val's Subterranean Cabaret, 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. 7 p.m. \$5 donation. Four hours with two intermissions; cabaret open at 6:30 for dinner seating.

Hausmusk presents Music for London Entertainment — Baroque love songs, ballads and instrumentals — on Saturday, Jan. 30. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. Advance reservations recommended. \$15/\$13/\$10. 524-5661.

Ballet Folklórico Quetzalli de Veracruz will be on stage at Zellerbach Hall Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. \$20/\$17/\$13. 642-9988.

Berkeley Improvisors perform at La Val's Subterranean on Feb. 3, 10 and 24, 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. Theater opens at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with performance at 7:30 p.m. \$5 admission. 548-5199.

Meetings, Classes, Lectures and other events

Clean Air Revival education seminar is Sunday, Jan. 31, 2-5 p.m. at Ashkenazi, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. For more information call 526-4621.

"Managing Menopause" is a free lecture by Dr. Judith Martin at Solano Avenue Natural Foods on Thursday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. 1770 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 527-6998.

East Bay French American School will hold an informational evening on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m., 1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. People planning to attend are asked to call the school at 549-3867.

Mystery writers Susan Dunlap and Linda Grant will be at the Berkeley Public Library Claremont Branch on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Also celebrating the library's 100th birthday will be Joel ben Izzy, telling stories 3-5 p.m. Jan. 31; Jim Cara will review 1893 books on Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.; Malcolm Margolin talks on regional history Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.; the Gaslighters, a capella group, 549-3867.

Rock Against Racism shows: Jan. 28: Starry Plough — Esme's Dream; Jan. 29: Gilman Street — MDC, Lasseter, and more; Jan. 31: Freight and Salvage — Joe Louis Walker.

Julie's Place hosts John McCutcheon, musician and storyteller, in her exhibit at the Oakland Museum through March 28.

Net Weight; Feb. 2: Pamela Rose/Nate Ginsburg; Feb. 3: Keta Bill Trio; Feb. 4: The Fabulous Bud E. Luv Show. Music 9 p.m. to midnight. Call 549-8576 for more information.

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Goings on About Town

Comics Convention comes to Berkeley on Sunday, Jan. 31 at the Berkeley Marina. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$50 kids free, 222-8663.

PCTV presents film and video highlights of Global Africa festivals on Monday and Wednesday, 7-10 p.m., through January. Channel 29.

City Commons Club: Beverly Hills speaks on "Children at Risk" all the Friday, Jan. 29 noon luncheon. \$42-3533 to reserve.

Center for Psychological Studies present a lecture on "Reassessing Contributions of Kurt Lewin to Small Group Learning" with Dr. Fred Massarik Friday, Jan. 20 at noon. 1398 Solano Ave., Albany. 524-0291.

GAIA community events — Jan. 28: "Ganesha, The Voyager Tarot," "The Day of the Great Oracle," Jan. 29; Robert Bork, "Awakening from the Deep Sleep," Jan. 30; Reinhard Flatischler, "Ta Ke Ke" and "The Forgotten Power of Rhythm," a lecture, performances and interactive demonstration, 8 p.m.; Feb. 2; Ruth-Ingeliz, "Shamans of the 20th Century," Feb. 4; Linda Schierle Leonard, "Meeting the Madwoman: An Inner Challenge of Feminine Spirit." At 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted; readings free with purchase of featured book, otherwise \$3. 100 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 848-GAIA.

National Institute of Art and Disabilities offers classes beginning in February at Contra Costa College in San Pablo. For information call 235-7800, 533 or 620-0290.

Kensington Senior Center welcomes Ed Kinney showing slides of his deserts and cases on Feb. 4, 11 a.m. Potluck and salad bar at noon. Take admission. 4-6 people or donate \$2.50. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146.

Tear Gas training Thursday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. at Berkeley University YMCA, 200 Bancroft Way. 524-5065.

"Berkeley Poetry Follies," a television show on PCTV, (channel 29.59 or 2) features selected readers from La's weekly open mike poetry program, Friday, Jan. 29 at 9:30 p.m.

Afraid of public speaking? Toastmasters can help. Thursday, noon to 1 p.m. 2151 Berkeley Way. 540-2477 or 249-4664.

Albany Green Party meets at 10 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at University Village Cafe on Monroe Street. For more information call Joan Trassner 524-8780.

Berkeley City Club: tours of its land-building designed by architect Julia Morgan are the fourth Sunday of every month, noon to 4 p.m. \$1.50. 2515 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 848-7800.

Exhibits

"Hope with Boundaries," an exhibit of masks and painting by Xochitl Nevel Moreno and Alexandra Flores, at Gathering Tribes through Feb. 18. 1309 San Bruno Ave., Albany. 528-9038.

"A Sense of Place: Public Art Projects and Proposals" is at the Richland Art Center through March 21. Also, "Art Kids Way," RUSD Elementary Mentor Project, through Feb. 21. Center Plaza, Richmond. 620-6772.

Photographs by Jonathan Eden on display at Cafe Ariel, 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, through Jan.

"Munch and His Models," a travel-exhibit and lecture series on Edward Munch sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Consulate, is at University Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley through March 21.

Group show "commemorating the years since the illegal overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii" is at La Maia, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 4-568.

"New Pages from the Sketchbook of Garcia" is at Weir Gallery, 1605 San Bruno Ave., Berkeley. 524-8621.

"An Eclectic Selection" features drawings, prints, photography, mixed media fiber and sculpture by gallery artists ACCI gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Diana Bohn's raku work is in craft spotlight. Through Feb. 7. 843-27.

Deanna Charlton's quilts and garments are on display at New Pieces

Fabric and Chamber Music through Feb. 3. 1597 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 527-6779.

"A Stitch In Time" a fiber art exhibit, is at the National Institute of Art and Disabilities, through Feb. 28. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 620-0326.

The Creative Spirit is a National Institute of Art and Disabilities satellite gallery and gift shop opening Feb. 3 at Ghirardelli Square, S.F. Exhibit, "Artists of NIAD" will run at the S.F. gallery Feb. 3-March 31, with a Feb 3 opening, 5-8 p.m. (415) 441-1537.

Refractions hosts "Past Exhibitors 1992" through Jan. 30. Color and black and white photographs, 600 San Pablo Ave., No. 105, Albany. 527-8664.

Judah L. Magnes Museum: "The 30th Anniversary Exhibition," through Feb. 7. Treasures from the Museum's collection of Jewish art and culture. "The Museum at Work: Making a Difference at Home and Around the World," "Continuity — An Enduring Heritage: Recent Gifts and Acquisitions," "Creation and Celebration: A 30th Anniversary Tribute." An exhibition of three large-scale mixed media works by Diana Schor created especially for this anniversary. Included are "Creation," "Tree of Life" and "Song of David." \$3. Sunday through Thursday,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 549-6950.

University Art Museum: "Contemporary California Art from the Collections: Part I," through Feb. 7. The two-part exhibition highlights the museum's collection of contemporary California art. Part II emphasizes trends in California painting and provides a context for the special exhibition, "On Painting: The Work of Elmer Bischoff and Joan Brown." "Hans Hofmann: Selected Works," through Jan. 31; "Cecilia Vicuna: El Ande Futuro" through Jan. 31; "New Asian Galleries" display the museum's Asian art collection. Gallery talks, Thursday 12:15 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Free with admission. \$5 general; \$4 seniors and students; free children under age 6. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2625 Duran Ave., Berkeley. 542-0808.

Hearts (Lowrie) Museum: "Too Good to Be True," through March 28. An exhibition of fakes, forgeries, hoaxes and deceptions that have plagued curators and collectors; "The Living Web: Contemporary Expressions of Northern California Indian Basketry," through Feb. 21; "Paradise and Survival: Ceremonial Indian Dances in Northern California, 1988 to 1992," through Feb. 21. "The Second

Time Around: Objects Made From Recycled Materials," through Feb. 7. \$1.50 general; 50 cents senior; 25 cents children. Bancroft Way and College Avenue, Berkeley. 643-7648.

Support Groups and Self-Help

Alzheimer's Association offers support groups throughout the Bay Area. For information, call (800) 942-1333.

Arts Anonymous, a support group for artists to share emotions and test material, meets Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Live Oak Park Recreation Hut, Berryman and Shattuck, Berkeley. 527-1243.

Brookside Hospital hosts the following support groups — Stroke, first Thursday, 7 p.m.; Burn, first Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.; Heart, fourth Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; Cancer, second and fourth Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m.; Ostomy, fourth Monday, 7:30 p.m. 2000 Vale Road, San Pablo. Call 235-7006 for more information.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (or Other Dysfunctional) Families meets Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Ashbury between Central and Lincoln, El Cerrito. 232-9292.

Type I Insulin dependent young

adults, 18-40, are invited to a support group second Saturdays every month, 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Diabetic Youth Foundation in Walnut Creek. 937-3393.

Alzheimer's Support Group meets at Doctors Hospital the second Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. 2151 Appian Way, Pinole, 724-5040. Asthma Support Group meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. 741-2442.

Cancer Support Group for patients, caretakers, long-term survivors and friends, every other Friday, 9:30 - 11 a.m. All Souls Episcopal Church, Spruce and Cedar, Berkeley. 845-9055.

American Schizophrenia Association — for the Mentally Ill family support group meets bimonthly in the conference meeting room at Herrick Hospital, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Meetings are free and open to anyone. 841-8361.

Berkeley Fire Resource Center, 2907 Claremont Blvd., has a weekly women's support group which meets Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. 644-7701.

Overeaters Anonymous (El Cerrito) meets Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton, 232-9292.

Overeaters Anonymous (Berkeley)

meets every Saturday to give free aid to those with eating problems, 8:30-10 a.m.; newcomers meet at 8 a.m. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. 273-9292/841-8562.

TOPS — Take Off Pounds Sensibly — meets each Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. at 980 Stannage Ave., Albany. 527-8372.

Heart Talks are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Brookside Hospital Auditorium, 2000 Vale Road, San Pablo. 235-7006, ext. 2295.

The Referral Source meets every Thursday at noon to exchange business referrals, networking, and other information. 763-4971.

Secular Organizations for Sobriety (S.O.S.) meets Mondays, 8-9 p.m. at Berkeley/Albany Recovery Center, 2126 Sixth St., and Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Berkeley Unitarian Church, Children's Center, 1606 Bonita. 814-2221.

Bereavement support groups for newly widowed men and women at the Widows' Widowers' Network Center, Walnut Creek. 256-7952.

The Bay Area Migraine and Chronic Headache Support Group meets in Berkeley. Call Judy at 459-5834 for information and to register.

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Redevelopment

Continued from front page

one-third of which are senior housing, according to Raycraft.

That housing will, he said, result in "a modest addition of school age children" who will then require services of the school district.

"We will provide direct financial assistance to the RUSD to mitigate that impact," Raycraft said.

RUSD was represented at the joint meeting Monday night; the representative spoke in support of the plan amendment.

But despite ongoing negotiations with the other affected agencies, several are opposed to the new plan.

One agency that may be problematic is the Contra Costa Community College District, according to Raycraft, who said that the district has been offered a level of assistance but has not yet accepted it.

The Redevelopment Agency anticipates that, over the course of the implementation of the 20-year plan, eight to 13 college students will be added.

"Our conclusion is that it's not an impact," Raycraft said.

At this point, the college district can accept the agency's offer, come

to some modified agreement, or sue the Redevelopment Agency—not on the financial aspects of the plan but on the plan itself (challenging the EIR, for example).

"No one wins in that situation," Raycraft said, noting that the college district did bring a lawsuit against the Pleasant Hill redevelopment plan and that the court did find in the district's favor.

"It's a process that's uncomfortable and not particularly equitable."

In the case of Pleasant Hill, Raycraft said, the redevelopment plan was thrown out, but the agency has since negotiated with the district, and (the issue) has been settled.

Other affected agencies represented at the public hearing were Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa County Office of Education, the Contra Costa Mosquito Abatement District, and AC Transit.

(The East Bay Regional Park District, another affected agency, was not represented.)

Raycraft pointed out that public hearing testimony would become a part of the record should a lawsuit develop.

He also said he was surprised to

see AC Transit represented, since he had met with transit representatives concerning certain improvements to be made along San Pablo Avenue and was comfortable with the discussions.

In general, though, Raycraft said he thought the hearing went well.

Outmoded plan

Reaction from the citizens of El Cerrito was mixed.

Resident Hildegard Buescher submitted a long letter in opposition to the amended plan; the letter was a part of the staff packet presented to the City Council and Redevelopment Agency.

Buescher, who is a 50-year resident, said she supported the redevelopment plan in 1977. But Buescher contends that the plan is no longer relevant.

Fifteen years ago, she said, "the concept of city beautification and redevelopment/renewal had relevance."

All levels of government now "have higher priorities than to tear down usable buildings just to build some newer ones in their place." Buescher focused on strip shopping concepts in her comments.

While she spoke to a 40-year trend in which regional shopping centers are anchored by two to three large retailers who do heavy advertising to build shopping traffic, thus helping the smaller surrounding retailers who cannot afford the high cost of newspaper ads, Buescher said she doubts that major retailers will be attracted to El Cerrito to establish that anchor.

In addition, Buescher believes that El Cerrito's citizens do not want the "50 percent more auto traffic on San Pablo Avenue" that would result from the number of additional shoppers coming into the area to generate enough revenues for the project to pay for itself.

Buescher also spoke against condemnation:

Scam

Continued from front page

Several victims then settled the matter for cash—ranging in amounts from \$40 to \$700. According to Detective Mike Savine, crayon was used on both the victim and the suspect vehicle in order to convince the victim that a collision did in fact occur.

In one follow-up scam, the suspects are accused of coming to the victim's residence on the pretense of returning some of the money. While inside, a child accompanying them asked to use the bathroom. The female suspect remained talking with the victim while the male suspect accompanied the child.

"Scams have been going on forever," said Savine, but the first one in this case group was reported on Feb. 11 of last year.

Based on the investigation of 10 prior cases spanning the year and on information gathered in photo lineups, one or both of the suspects were charged with seven additional felony and two additional misde-

"I and my neighbors are against granting a 12-year option to the Redevelopment Agency to purchase our property. I wouldn't grant that right to anyone, and the city has no special privilege in that regard."

She urged the city to bring the question of the renewed redevelopment plan to a vote.

The El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, however, has gone on record in support of the plan.

"Although the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and its members may not always agree with the actions taken by the Redevelopment Agency, we feel that the overall achievements of the agency can and will benefit the citizens of El

Cerrito and the people who continue to do business there," said president Michael Klinger, who referred to Raycraft.

Klinger later said that the assistance of the redevelopment agency, land parcels could put together to entice developers to the area.

"The consensus of the citizens is that if the city is to compete with the programs already started to develop the land within the city, the assistance of the redevelopment agency is needed."

"We also understand that you have to continue your efforts to revitalize the city. Cerrito through redevelopment will take additional time and money."

meanor crimes.

Stevens and Stone were due Monday by the district attorney's office with attempted grand jury connection with the Jan. 22

Anyone who has been a victim of a similar incident or attack in El Cerrito should contact Savine at 215-4419. In addition, said Savine, "Any elderly person involved in an accident should call the police should call."

It's important not to pay attention to any threats regarding license or cancellation of insurance.

"In one attempt," said Savine, "when the victim said the suspect must be called, the guy got out of the car and left."

Parks

Continued from front page

now allows counties to charge for property tax collection. These charges come right off the top of funds directly earmarked for EBRPD and deplete district resources by \$500,000.

They also lose an additional \$100,000 because they no longer collect a share of court collection fees, also once earmarked for the district, he added.

Because of those losses, along with what he termed "numerous secondary effects," O'Brien said the district is losing \$1 million a year.

He also acknowledged concern about the increasing state shortfall and the possibility that Sacramento may try to raid the district's coffers.

Seventeen percent of the district's properties are state titles operated at no charge to Sacramento. O'Brien said the district has argued that funneling off money to operate state properties would be a

mistake.

While several speakers extolled the virtues of the assessment, agricultural representatives opposed the collection method.

"I'm not against trails," said Marie Cronin, farmer who lives near Castro Valley, "but not on the burdens and backs of those who make a living off the land."

Cronin said that with more than 1 million people making use of the parks in both counties, the district should consider a user fee.

"There has to be a better way," said Tom Brumley, former president of the Contra Costa County Farm Bureau. "It's not unusual for a farm to be put together with several parcels."

"It ought to go to a vote of the people. If not, the fee should be based on per person or household and not on acres of land or parcels owned."

Brumley, current president of the Contra Costa-Alameda Counties Cattlemen's Association, said

that farms in East Contra Costa County tend to be composed of more than one parcel.

He added that his organization would continue to monitor the progress of the proposal.

While board reaction for the assessment was supportive, new board member Jean Siri expressed concern that agricultural interests be treated fairly.

Noting that exemptions already exist for two other areas in the district, Siri said, "You can't do it for one agricultural part and not the other."

The proposed assessment would exempt two areas from the fee: Brentwood in East Contra Costa County and Murray Township in the Livermore area, said Ned MacKay, district public information officer.

The district executive committee has examined the issue for a year and established two support groups, one for each county, to explore it further.

I-80 protest

Continued from front page

The event brought out reporters from several Bay Area newspapers and publications, as well as television news crews and periodic traffic reports on radio station KCBS.

"In terms of calling attention of the problems of freeway expansion, it was much better than anybody could have possibly hoped for," said Bicyclist United for Environmental Revolution member "Jungle" John Poschman, who led four other bicyclists up the freeway entrance, only to be tackled by a highway patrol officer and subsequently arrested as passing motorists looked on.

"For us to put a commercial on one of those TV stations would have cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars," Poschman added.

The event marks the continuation of efforts by a variety of groups seeking to block the \$300 million expansion of I-80 between Emeryville and Richmond, a project that Caltrans officials say will ease congestion on the heavily used freeway, but that activists say will amount to more air pollution, more congestion, and a continued reliance on inappropriate modes of transportation.

Saturday's action represents

only part of a multi-pronged effort by activists to stop the impending freeway expansion.

Representatives from the Auto Free Bay Area Coalition filed suit last fall in Alameda County Superior Court to stop the expansion on the grounds that the project's environmental impact report failed to adequately investigate alternative approaches to solving the area's growing transportation headaches.

The move halted the onset of construction for some weeks, but the court recently threw out the suit because it was filed late. Activists say they will appeal.

He said it is not a tax, only a business license fee.

Karp also apologized for the fact that other cities were not informed of the decision process beforehand and assured the mayors that would no other decisions affecting other cities would be made in that way.

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The resolution passed 7 to 4, though it has no binding effect on San Leandro.

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Continued from front page

It was Albany Mayor Bill Cain who moved the resolution requesting the city to suspend the new fee and to establish a committee to "consider cooperation of Alameda County cities on budget matters."

Cain said later he objected to both the decision and the process by which it was made.

"It's a tax, there's no doubt about it," Cain said.

"Ultimately, it will affect the rates Oakland Scavenger will pass through (to ratepayers) as a cost of doing business."

Garbage

Continued from front page

Cain believes that all cities have certain expenses they absorb in order to help provide regional services.

"We can try to nickel and dime everything, but ultimately we have to work together as a region."

As for the process, said Cain, "If this precedence starts and cities start treating each other this way, cooperation may break down between them. We have a lot of problems that go beyond our city boundaries."

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The



In the Game
y Peter Mentor

sing to No. 1

St. Mary's pulled off the biggest upset win of the season in a 54-50 come-from-behind victory over St. Joseph Notre Dame in front of a packed house at home Saturday night.

This was the game nobody thought the Panthers could win, but they put all the right pieces to

gether to take over first place at 4-1 in the Shore Division of the East Shore Athletic League.

It was the second stunning de-

feat in two days for the defending state champion Pilots, who saw their 13-game league winning streak ended the night before in a 68-64 loss to St. Elizabeth.

St. Mary's won it using staunch

defense and 19-of-26 shooting from

the line in the second half. The

Panthers shut the Pilots down to

seven points in the fourth quarter and received clutch play from senior John Page, who scored a game-

high 20 points including an impres-

sive 10-for-13 shooting from the

free throw line in the second half.

No score was more important

than the Page's slammer-jammer

at 3:09 in the fourth quarter, giving

the Panthers their first lead of the game. "The Dunk" turned into a three-point play for Page, when St. Joseph's Joe Nelson pushed him after the shot and the Panther forward hit the free throw for a 48-46 lead.

The series that led up to The

Dunk summed up the tenacious play

that brought the Panthers their first

win over the Pilots since the 1988-

89 season when then head coach

Restelli Brown first came to St.

Mary's as an assistant coach.

With half a quarter left Panther

junior guard Abby Hussein com-

mitted his fifth foul and was out of

the game, the second Panther

player to do so up to that point.

Pilot Calvin Criddle missed his

free throw as St. Joseph's hit a

pitiful 17-for-35 from the line dur-

ing the game.

Page was fouled on the next

play and he hit both free throws to

cut the lead to one point. St. Jo-

seph made it's way down the court

and tried to go inside, but Panther

senior guard Rah-mu Brown bat-

tered the pass down. The ball rolled

free to Panther point guard Yusef

Moore-Mobley, who dove forward

and tipped it down the court to Page.

Page went up and over the rim for

the dunk and the two-point lead.

It was far from over at that point,

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Ygnacio Valley player's 20-yard goal beats Berkeley, 1

By Peter Mentor

Berkeley boys' soccer got the win they had to get, then dropped a game they wanted to win that would have made life easier in the quest for a playoff spot in the Bay Valley Athletic League post-season.

The Yellowjackets played Pinole Valley last week and had a 2-0 lead going into the half, but they let up in the second half and almost let the Spartans back into the game. Berkeley ended up beating Pinole Valley 3-2 on goals by Juan Felipe, Marco Azucena and Ben Wells.

Then the Yellowjackets had a game against league leader De La Salle, but it was postponed to

morrow because of the field conditions.

On Saturday Berkeley played Ygnacio Valley, currently the second-place team in the league. The Warriors scored with five minutes left in the first half to take a 1-0 lead at the break. Berkeley played well and with many chances to score against Ygnacio Valley, but the Yellowjackets could not put the ball in the net and ended up with a 1-0 loss.

"We were dominating the half and they got a counter attack," said Berkeley head coach Ken Shadlen.

"It was a nice shot. He hit it from 20 to 25 yards out. It was a great goal."

'Parents were out from both teams and the league sent out the best refs'

KEN SHADLEN
BHS COACH

Shadlen said his team played a good game and it was hard to see them lose because of the importance attached as far as the league standings go and the way his team put a full effort into playing as a a 1-0 loss.

"We deserved more for our effort," said Shadlen. "We really wanted to beat this team because

they are in second place. The disappointing part of this game was this was the most the team had come together. They deserved not to lose. We've played worse games and won."

The loss dropped Berkeley into fifth place in the league at 4-4, 9-5 overall.

Shadlen has not given up on the

playoffs because of the teams Berkeley has yet to play, including fourth-place Clayton Valley on Tuesday, third-place Antioch today and league leader De La Salle in the makeup game on Friday.

"I don't expect us to finish the season in fifth place," said Shadlen. "We have only six games left. This will determine it. We'll have to get five out of six points. All the teams that are ahead of us we play. Four of the six teams left are first, second, third, fourth. That's why I say we are not out of it."

Despite the loss to Ygnacio Valley, Shadlen was pleased with the game. "This was a good game," he said. "After all the bad weather we

got a good day. The parents out from both teams and the sent out the best refs because they knew the importance of this. They defended well and we put the ball in the goal."

Berkeley plays Ygnacio Valley one more time this season, last game before the playoffs. Yellowjackets can pull off a winning streak until then. Shadlen felt it could be an exciting both teams.

"Ygnacio Valley is a good game," said Shadlen. "The chance that that game is a good game. They have an easy game playing the bottom three in the last four games."

Panthers win

Continued from previous page but momentum had shifted to the Panthers. Moore-Mobley was fouled and he hit the first shot and missed the second, giving his team a three-point lead.

Cridle hit two shots from the line and Miles Tarver hit one of two from the line on successive fouls by St. Mary's to tie it up at 49-49 with 2:05 left.

St. Mary's junior Charles Taylor scored only two points for the entire game, but they came at the perfect time. His basket off a rebound with 38 seconds left helped the Panthers regain the lead 51-49. Moore-Mobley committed his fifth foul and the last of the Panther point guards left the game with 21 seconds. Tymon Small hit the first free throw, but his chance to tie the game again when second dropped to the side.

With three seconds left Page dropped in two foul shots for a 53-50 lead and St. Joseph took a timeout. Nelson inbounded the ball looking for someone deep to can the 3-pointer, but it bounced out of bounds and St. Mary's gained control. Page was fouled again and scored his final point to ice the game.

"I tried to do as much as I could without going too far," said Page.

"On the dunk, I just went up the floor and it came over the rim. (Afterward) I was just trying to keep the guys down so we wouldn't lose control."

Page said the game was big in more than just winning against the top team. It gave the Panthers an added boost for the rest of the season.

"It's a big weight off our shoulders," said Page. "Now we feel like we are one of the top teams in the league. This is going to give us a lot of momentum. We lost to Alameda and St. Elizabeth last year. We play St. Liz and it's going to be a good game. We're going to be going at it."

From the start of the St. Joseph game it looked like it would be the Pilots' night, as it has been for the past three years under Mr. Basketball, Jason Kidd. The Panthers were down 28-16 at the half, so it seemed like business as usual for St. Joseph, whose full-court press and fast-paced style was overwhelming the Panthers.

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Russian hymnfest ulls the Paramount

By Lockey Leplin

those crazy Russians! Those lusty, ribald, dancing fools, kicking up their heels in ditches, sing back vodka volcanoes, sing out ditties about maidens in bodices bursting at the seams! Eh? Not if you went by Slavyanka's performance of Dec. 31 at the Paramount.

Chorus

Directed by Alexei Shipovalov, Slavyanka is a local, all-chorus devoted exclusively to the songs of the Motherland. New to the United States, Shipovalov was the director of the Moscow State University Symphony, and he is now a citizen of the Russian Federation. Slavyanka's 37 members come from all walks of life (with the seeming exception of the madcap and boozey). Presented by the Oakland Community Concert Association, Slavyanka sang folk songs and liturgical hymns that rarely rose to a mezzo-forte. They painted a picture of an other-worldly, pious people, perhaps oppressed by the soot beneath sodden skies, singing hushed paean to the deities.

However, I would have had to mislead: one song was described as "beautiful, even mystical," but the announcer failed to mention "tragic."

Another, introduced as an "exciting, rousing, strongly syncopated piece" fell far short of the billing.

Two narrations focused on how long the numbers have been sung: one for a thousand years, another for 900. The latter, never written down, has been kept alive in a cavern near Kiev called the Monastery of the Caves. Slavyanka had been there, and sang the song for the resident monks by candlelight.

Material aside, the performance was fine. Pitches were in place, and the overall sound was polished and smooth. And in a surprise move, Slavyanka broke with tradition and brought on

See SLAVYANKA on page 16

I knew my take
on the Russian
soul was in peril
when the chorus
entered dressed
for a funeral.

the concert's content departed

After openings from Albany to Alameda

Albany Players in Ayckbourn comedy

The Albany Players present Alan Ayckbourn's drawing-room comedy *How the Other Half Loves* at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Little Theatre at Albany High School, 603 Key Blvd., Albany. The production is directed by Philip Reed and Hugh Douglas Jr., Rick B. Robinson, Sarah Sammons, Vicki Vogensen, Susan Warwick and Michael G. Wilson. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door (\$4 for six or more or seniors). For reservations, call 482-3334 or 525-6952.

Baw's 'Candida' from new company

Following the success of the two-person play *Dear Master* last year, the principals, Barbara Oliver, has founded the Aurora Theater Company. The company's first production is George Bernard Shaw's classic tale of a young man's infatuation with an older woman, Barbara Oliver directs; Kimberly King plays Candida. Preview next week (Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 3 to 7) and opens the following week, Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 10 to 14. The show is at 2 p.m. (except the preview, which is at 7 p.m.); performances on days are at 8 p.m. It plays at the Berkeley Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Tickets are \$12. Call 843-4822 for reservations.

Chekhov at the Blue Rose

The Theater of the Blue Rose presents Anton Chekhov's *The Sea Gull* the next three weekends. The play, Chekhov's first masterpiece, deals with fears and aspirations of the Russian intelligentsia, with Chekhov's uniquely universal humanism, warmth and wit. Performances are Jan. 30 and Feb. 5, 6, 12, 13 and 14. The Feb. 14 performance is at 3 p.m.; all others are at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5; no reservations. The theater is at 18th St. in Berkeley (between Parker Street and Dwight Way). Call 540-5037 for information.

Hamlet' and Poetry Follies

Subterranean Shakespeare presents a staged reading of the full text of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at 7 p.m. at La Val's Subterranean Cabaret, 1601 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. Directed by Stan Gordon and Jon Gordon, the reading begins at 6:30 p.m. if you want pizza. Admission is \$5. Call 843-5617 for more information.

BCO brings 'Candide' to brilliant life

A lively production of the relentlessly clever Bernstein classic.

By Don McConnell

Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* has long had a sort of cult following among fans of both opera and musicals. It's the musical so witty and brilliant that it has never achieved a sustained success on the stage.

Musical comedy

Its various incarnations (it's been thoroughly rewritten at least twice), it's been worked on by some of the brightest writers of the century — Richard Wilbur, Lillian Hellman, Dorothy Parker, Stephen Sondheim.

Despite Bernstein's secure reputation as the equal of any composer of musicals, virtually none of the music of *Candide* is familiar to most people, even those who can sing you the scores of every Richard Rodgers hit. The most popular theme from *Candide* by far is the snippet used for years as a theme by Dick Cavett.

That obscurity is a mystery. The score contains at least five songs every bit as wonderful as the best tunes in *West Side Story*.

For the rest, I heartily advise anyone curious about the piece to see the production currently being presented by the Berkeley Contemporary Opera. You'll experience two things at once: you'll understand why the piece is seldom performed, and you'll be greatly entertained.

The BCO has enough productions under its belt now, all of them the work of the same basic team, for it to be possible to characterize the company:

The principal singers are usually first-rate, drawn from all over the Bay Area. The rest of the cast is usually very young, many drawn from UC-Berkeley, and often also first-rate.

The musical side of things is in the hands of Marc Lowenstein, who either conducts or takes a starring role — in *Candide* he does both. The sets, by Kevin Cain, are very completely realized and often very beautiful.

Finally, the real creative genius



Grand Inquisitor (Rick Williams) dazzles Cunegonde (Linda Jaqua) and Candide (Steen Sellers). *Liza Heider*

of the company is its director, Phil Lowery, whose staging often steals the show. The one weakness in past productions has been the weakness of the material being presented, but that's not really the case here.

Unless you want to be answering awkward questions for a week, I'd leave the kids at home.

The problem with *Candide* is that it's relentlessly clever. Watching it, I was reminded of a comment by a local choreographer after we had both seen *The Death of Klinghoffer* this fall — another collaboration of some of the brightest and best: John Adams, Mark Morris, Peter Sellars and Alice Goodman.

The choreographer said the work was a collection of great ideas by very bright people, but the result was less than the total of the ideas. I didn't quite agree (my own reaction was that if you took away Sellars and Morris, you were left with a work of stunning beauty and originality).

But I think it is true of *Candide*. By the end of act II, you kind of wish they'd all get off it.

Along the way to that, though, there were many, many truly delightful moments. Steen Sellers is a fine Candide, cherubic, innocent and with a Broadway-style singing voice that was very pleasant to hear. At the end, the score asks a little more of him than he can give, but most of the time he was just right.

Linda Jaqua, who alternates with Jane Hammett as the heroine Cunegonde, is one of the treasures of the BCO (she starred in two of its earlier productions). She has operatic range and technique but not the power to fill a house much larger than the Julia Morgan Theater where the show is playing.

That's not a cavil at all; it's a joy to hear a voice so suited to its role and place. Her performance of "Glitter and Be Gay" gave us everything that silly coloratura romp has to offer.

Elizabeth Hodgkin as the single-buttock Old Lady who follows the hero on many of his adventures was masterly at the broad comedy of the role and sang with a luscious, rich mezzo. The other impressive singer was the beguiling Kathi Brottemarkle; her performance made you wish the role

was larger.

Kenneth Pound as the vain Maximilian managed to be every bit as silly as the character is meant to be.

That leaves the two practiced hams — Lowenstein playing three roles, Voltaire, Dr. Pangloss and the conductor, and Rick Williams as four different characters.

Even before reading in the press packet that Williams has taken most of the major Gilbert and Sullivan roles, it's immediately obvious that the man has an unusual command of the stage and its musically comic devices. The grimaces and leers, the strange and compelling singing voice — it was hard to take your eyes off him.

Lowenstein is nearly as practiced a performer, though he has a tendency to push his performance almost to the manic. But he gets full credit for his musical direction. Even as you're listening to the results he produces as conductor, you wonder how on Earth he's managing it.

The production copies a feature of the 1974 Harold Prince staging of the piece (according to the press materials) and spreads the orchestra around the periphery.

See CANDIDE on page 16

East Bay Events This Week

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Aaron Davidman in one-man 'Fever'

The Berkeley Theater Project presents Wallace Shawn's *The Fever*, a one-man play. The man, played by Aaron Davidman, is trapped on the floor of a hotel room as a political struggle takes place outside. He thinks back on memories of a "privileged past," but these gradually turn into an internal struggle. Shawn was co-author of the film *My Dinner With Andre*. The play opens Friday and plays Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings through Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 2300 Bancroft Ave. (at Ellsworth) in Berkeley. Tickets are \$8 to \$15. Extra performances Feb. 7 at the Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Community Center (1414 Walnut St., Berkeley) and Feb. 19 at Unita House (2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). Call 528-1287 for reservations.

A choice of chamber music

Donatello Quartet at the Morgan

The Donatello String Quartet, consisting of violinists Diane Farrell and Nadia Tichman, violist Nanci Severance and cellist Susanne Lion, all members of the San Francisco Symphony, plays Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave. (at Derby) in Berkeley. They play three quartets: Haydn's Op. 50, No. 6; Janacek's Quartet No. 2; and Beethoven's Op. 132.

The Beethoven is a late work that contains the master's "Heiliger Dankgesang," his religious affirmation of life after overcoming the despair brought on by illness. Tickets are \$9 to \$12; call 84-JULIA for reservations.

Cello-piano recital at Holy Names College

Pianist Roy Bogas and cellist David Kaua-rach, both well-known soloists in the Bay Area, join forces for a program consisting of Beethoven's Sonata in G Minor, Op. 5, No. 2; Bloch's Suite for Cello and Piano; and Brahms' Sonata in E Minor, Op. 38.

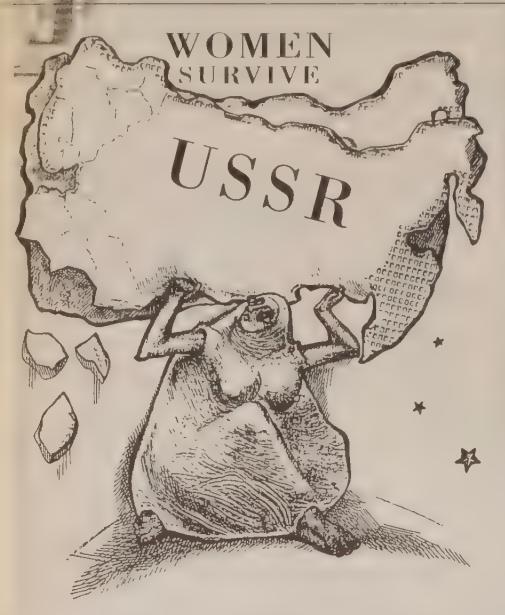
The recital is at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Cushing Library, Holy Names College, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (Take the Redwood Road exit from Highway 13. Just east of the freeway, turn north on Mountain Boulevard and follow signs to the campus.) Tickets are \$6 to \$10. Call 436-1031 for more information.



Learn the dances of Veracruz. Members of the Mexican troupe Ballet Folklorico 'Quetzalli' will introduce beginners to the folk dances of Veracruz and other regions of Mexico. Sponsored by Cal Performances, the workshop takes place Saturday at 1 p.m. at La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under. Call 849-2568 for more information. That evening at 8, the troupe appears at UC-Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets are \$13 to \$20; call 642-9988 for reservations.

More events

Events This Week - continued



Julia Kirillova, an artist from Moscow, presents her ceramics, a medium she likes because 'clay is a basic communicator,' used for utensils, toys, hearths, altars and idols. Above is the artist's sketch of one of her pieces, titled 'The very right woman.' The figure, which has two right hands, represents the imbalance of the current situation in Russia. Her show opens Monday at the Art Store, 5301 Broadway, Oakland, and runs through March 12. A reception for Kirillova will be held Thursday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m. Call 658-2787 for more information.

More chamber music

MusicSources goes 'modern'

MusicSources, the Center for Historically Informed Performance, presents chamber music from the 18th and 19th centuries (that's modern for MusicSources), played by an ensemble including Anthony Martin and Elisabeth LeGuin, faculty members at the San Francisco Conservatory. The concert, which celebrates the conservatory's 75th anniversary, is 5 p.m. Sunday at MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley. Tickets are \$12 to \$15. Call 528-1685 for reservations.

A musical evening from old London

The group **Hausmusik**, a chamber ensemble (affiliated with the San Francisco Early Music Society) which recreates the intimate ambience in which most 16th- to 18th-century music was performed, offers a concert of "Baroque love songs, ballads and instrumental repertoire from the English Pleasure Gardens."

The concert features **Elisabeth Rau**, soprano; **Eileen Hadidian**, flute and recorder (she is also the group's director); **Shira Kammen**, violin; and **Susan Harvey**, harpsichord. It takes place at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Parish Hall of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. Tickets are \$10 to \$15. Space is limited; reservations are recommended. Call 524-5661.



Eileen Hadidian of Hausmusik

Alive! jazz quintet at Mills College

The seminal women's jazz quintet **Alive!** plays Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Mills College Concert Hall, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. The group consists of **Rhiannon**, **Carolyn Brandy**, **Barbara Borden**, **Suzanne Vincenza** and **Janet Small** performing "hot jazz, incredible vocals, Latin beats, soulful swing, improvisations and stories."

Tickets are \$15, available from Redwood Cultural Work, 835-1445, or at Mama Bears or the Gaia Bookstore. The hall is accessible to people in wheelchairs; a sign-language interpreter will also be there.

Alive! recorded three albums between 1975 and 1985. They'll perform "Wild Women," "Jazz Healer," "Yemaya" and other hits.



Organist Keff Weiler plays the Wurlitzer at the Paramount Theatre for the 1928 silent movie 'Queen Kelly' featuring Gloria Swanson and Walter Byron. Swanson is a convent girl sold into white slavery in Africa; in the end she inherits a fortune. Considered risqué in the '20s, extracts from the film are included in the later classic 'Sunset Boulevard.' Tickets are \$7 to \$17. The showing is Saturday at 8 p.m. only. The Paramount, the East Bay's restored Art Deco movie palace, is at 2025 Broadway in Oakland. Phone: 465-6400.

'30s charm intact in Hart-Kaufman classic

■ CCCT assembles all-star cast for 'You Can't Take It With You.'

By Phyllis Lyons

Dusting off and shining up an old chestnut till it glows in the dark, the Contra Costa Civic Theater swings into the New Year with a cockle-warming production of *You Can't Take It With You*.

Stage

The Moss Hart-George Kaufman comedy plays weekends in El Cerrito through Feb. 27. Sandwiched between the famous team's 1935 *Once Upon a Time* and 1937 *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, the Pulitzer prize-winning play was made into a movie starring Jimmy Stewart, Jean Arthur and Lionel Barrymore.

It has been revived again and again on community stages all over and is a popular choice for senior class plays.

So to offend any potential contempt bred by familiarity, CCCT artistic director Louis Flynn has put together an all-star cast of actors from local little theaters and counted on their special "talent, enthusiasm and intelligence" — Flynn's words — to make the "undisputed American theater classic" sit up and take notice.

Flynn's hunch pays off. Experience tells. The veterans of Bay Area boards skillfully hold the play within the context of 1936

and treat the audience to an authentic look at the lost art of "zany." So what if a few of the topical jokes escape people under 50? We're talking theatrical history.

The Sycamores, a family of blood relatives and strangers who drop in and stay, are a bunch of free spirits with no visible means of support contentedly doing their thing by day and getting together around the dinner table in the evening.

Entered the rule-shackled, sober-sides establishment. Hoity-toity Wall Street denizens, the IRS, the FBI, the cop on the beat, wreak havoc in paradise in a series of funny plot twists. But at final curtain, true love triumphs and everybody presumably lives happily ever after.

CCCT co-founder (and director of this production) Louis Flynn is a charming old gruff as the family patriarch Grandpa Vanderhof, whose days are spent at strangers' funerals or at the

entrance to the rule-shackled, sober-sides establishment. Hoity-toity Wall Street denizens, the IRS, the FBI, the cop on the beat, wreak havoc in paradise in a series of funny plot twists. But at final curtain, true love triumphs and everybody presumably lives happily ever after.

Haughtily dismayed while getting their laces unstrained, Bar-



Mark Wimple, left, Theo Collins (seated), Suzanne Smith and Larry Hiltz in Contra Costa Civic Theater's production of the Moss Hart-George Kaufman classic 'You Can't Take It With You.'

200.

Lou Capeluto, 38-year actor and CCCT veteran, plays Sycamore dad Paul, fireworks maker and proud creator of the liner *Queen Mary* in Tinker Toys. Jack of all theater arts, Aubrey McClellan blows up the basement as Paul's self-effacing sidekick, Mr. DePinna.

McClellan also designed the homey one-set Sycamore living room.

Director-actor Theo R. Collins is mom Penny Sycamore, who writes sex plays and war plays because "eight years ago somebody left a typewriter by mistake."

The ballet-dancer, candymaker daughter Essie is played by Elaine M. Walenta, a star last year of CCCT's *Good News*. Mark David Wimple, memorable as the coach in *Good News*, is memorable again as Essie's husband, Ed, the printer and xylophone player.

Romeo and Juliet, this time, succeed in reconciling the two families at odds. Alice Sycamore, the daughter with a 40-hour-a-week job on Wall Street, is played by Suzanne Smith, star of CCCT's *Steel Magnolias*. Her paramour, Tony, scion of the upscale Kirby family, is played by song and dance man and actor Mark West.

Haughtily dismayed while getting their laces unstrained, Bar-

bara Selden and Robert Wood are funny standouts as the senior Kibbys. Wood, master of the raised eyebrow, is frequently seen center stage with the Masques of Point Richmond, and the willow-y Selden comes to the Bay Area from the New York stage and soap opera.

The zany scene is swelled with a drunken actress (Gail Wetherbee), a Russian cackled dancing teacher (Larry Hiltz) and his countess pal (Suzanne Merchant), an IRS man (Kenneth Ray) doing a great Great Gildersleeve and assorted FBI men in fedoras.

Like a movie with a rich Jean

Harlow in white fur, *You Can't Take It With You* provided upbeat diversion from 1930s times. The message is as good as ever. Relax. Have fun. What heck.

By the time the CCCT gathers front and center to "Good Night, Sweetheart," audience is feeling the wuzzies they might hope to a stress-reduction therapy session. And had a lot more fun.

The Contra Costa Civic Theater is at 951 Pomona Ave., Cerrito. *You Can't Take It With You* plays weekends through 27. For tickets call 524-9132.

Slavyanka

Continued from page 15

stage — a woman!

Julia Ronskaja, a member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, sang two solos, over choral humming, in a meltingly lovely lyric soprano that contained some of the concert's few major tonalities, and virtually all of its fervor.

The second half of the concert was, if this was possible, an anticlimax. It consisted of selections from *A Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* by C. Shevdev. The musical biography recited in advance was so exhaustive I wonder if the author has considered having it published.

Although a 20th-century com-

poser, Shevdev's melodies are modal as those of the 900-old hymn, and his harmonies rhythms showed the influence of no composer since Genghis Khan. The whole work is to be premiered in Grace Cathedral, whose acoustics can only enhance the pious nature of the piece.

I have no doubt that Slavyanka and one hopes, in the full will do justice to the passion of the Russian people that has often been expressed by the great composers. Finding rousing material should not be too much digging. I heard 49ers weren't all that exciting Sunday either.

Ya can't win 'em all.

Candide

Continued from page 15

erry of the theater. Only the brass and percussion were in the orchestra pit. The chorus is often equally spread out, and very often facing away from the conductor.

Yet the ensemble was consistently excellent, and the choral singing was stronger than in any previous BCO production. At one point, in a rapid patter song being sung by Lowenstein himself, he fell behind the band for a few measures; astonishingly the players kept together.

Ultimately such a high-wire act was bound to stumble, and it did for parts of the finale. By this time Lowenstein was on a platform 20 feet above the stage and behind most of his singers, who were moving about the theater. Things fell apart briefly, but it was the only time in the show.

Lowery's directing has what we expect of a bright director — innovative and felicitous touches added throughout, often enhanced by costuming so clever it brings a smile.

But he also knows what he

wants from his actors, and the result constantly makes you say, "Yes, that's exactly right."

He also has a taste for the sexy, though it's absurd to say that compared to what we're handed on TV and in films; probably "risqué" is the better term. At one point, we're almost shown a bit more of Candide than we really want to see, but in general propriety is (barely) maintained.

(Some young children were at the performance I saw, and they clearly loved it. Still, unless you want to be answering awkward

questions for the next week leave youngsters at home.)

The production is literally over the theater — above, and below and right next to you. Sitting on the aisle, I was nuzzled one of the enchanting gold sheep of El Dorado.

It was a highpoint of myater-going experience.

The remaining performances this week are Wednesday and Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$6 to \$25. Call 844-7000 for reservations.

Courthouse Athletic Club: practical approach to fitness



Business Update

STEVE MILLER

If one of your New Year's resolutions is getting and staying in shape, check out the Courthouse Athletic Club in downtown Oakland. They offer a diverse program with broad appeal.

"We try to provide for all kinds of people," said general manager Shellee Onstead. The emphasis, she said, is on lifelong health and welfare.

Now in its 15th year, the club has about 2,000 members in all age groups and sizes. The 50 counselors offer everything from

"slam-bam aerobics to gentle fitness," Onstead said.

As stated in a club brochure, their mission "is to provide high quality services through a professional, well-educated and friendly staff...and ongoing fitness education and rehabilitation options to our members and community."

The club was actually started by Dr. Thomas Schmitz as a rehabilitation program for patients of his orthopedic surgery practice. Gradually, the program began to take on a life of its own. Over the years, the staff and membership grew into the full-size athletic club it is today.

The reason for the club's popularity, Onstead said, is their practical approach to fitness and the level of sophistication of their clientele.

"People are more educated now about health and fitness. We have to keep up with the latest trends," said Onstead. "I think we've done a good job."

Services offered include: personalized fitness evaluation and consultation services; nutrition counseling; personalized weight training service; blood chemistry analysis; and massage service.

Personal training is available. Experienced and qualified trainers, Onstead said, offer what they themselves would want in a fitness program.

Fitness related seminars are available to members, as well as free equipment checkout, locker facilities, men's and women's spa and sauna, a sun deck and baby sitting.

Clients may take advantage of private swim lessons and privileges at Chabot Canyon Tennis Club. A 25-yard lap pool with a retractable roof is available, along with all the latest in fitness equipment and two fully equipped weight rooms.

For information call 834-5600.

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WORD OF MOUTH

By John McNulty

First time visitors to the Tied House's (8 Pacific Marina at the end of Triumph on the water in Alameda; parking, info and directions, 521-4321) vast brewery-restaurant with its nearly 180 degree view of the water are often surprised at what they find. Expect to find comfortable waterfront seating inside and out, patio, a sports section especially suitable for the coming Superbowl Party, dance and stage section, and a wrap around bar with glass enclosed stainless brewing tank section. Alameda's Tied House has recently won a number of gold and silver brewing awards. The restaurant has some great specialties, including freshly made sausages.

Friday and Saturday Jan. 29 and 30 the six piece rhythm and blues band After Dark plays for dancers on the spacious new dance floor at The Tied House. Music for ballroom and swing dancing by the Tied House Swing Band starts at 7 p.m. on Sundays.

These days restaurants managed with the intention of serving fine foods will revise their menus from time to time. Owner/chef Alan Carlson (formerly partner at Zza's Trattoria's) will keep customer options changing. Seasonal specials are also to be expected. The newly printed menu of Colors Cafe-Rotisserie (5900 Hollis St., Emeryville, near Chalkers; parking, 655-7100) emphasizes rotisserie dishes Spit Roasted Roast Pork Loin and a version of a Cobb Salad called Rotisserie Salad. One hot lunch choice is Grilled Eggplant Sandwich (mozzarella, sundried tomato, basil and aioli) — it's full flavored and healthy. Visit here for breakfast, lunch, brunch on weekends and dinners daily.

A warm and human setting for food, drinks and relaxing conversation is the newish Filippo's (5600 College Ave., Oakland; 601-8646). Inspired by cafes in the European style, Filippo's offers a variety of hot sandwiches which are served open faced of focaccia bread. Hot dishes, a variety of drinks including espresso (of course), premium beers, sodas and des-

serts are also available. They're open late every evening.

Open and serving Indonesian and Pacific Island foods is Templebar (984 University Ave., Berkeley; 548-9888). The restaurant is relocated from the famed San Francisco 1 Tillman Place location, once owned by David Davenport. Now under different ownership, Templebar is decorated in Pacific Rim artifacts and the original rounded rosewood backbar from the original location. Dinner offers such recommended favorites as Ayam Rujak (lemon grass, coconut milk, sugar peas and tomato) and Rendang (hot-spicy stewed beef with red and green bell pepper). Weekend breakfast, daily lunches and dinners are served.

Saturday and Sunday brunch omelette choices are anything but ordinary at Cafe Select (1568 Oakview Ave., Colusa Circle, Kensington; 525-1350). Here the egg dishes offer selections featuring ingredients along the lines of sauteed eggplant, sauteed trout, red onion and garlic, topping jack cheese and grilled chorizo sausage, pine nuts and basil topped with parmesan cheese and grilled pepper ham. Don't try all these ingredients at once, mind you. Take a look at the unique menu at this attractive restaurant to sort it all out.

John Patrick's (1813 Park St., Alameda, next to Ron Goode Toyota; 522-5105) features another "Bikini Night" on Jan. 28. Lots of people like to cheer in appreciation here, so the room stays warm and contestant goose pimples are unlikely. Contestants must pre-register. Iron Horse plays rock 'n' roll before and after the contest. Barbecued dinner is available.

There are lots and lots of Italian food choices at Via Veneto (5356 College Ave. between Broadway and Rockridge BART, Oakland; 652-8540). The interior of this long established restaurant is large, with wood railings and furniture including antiques washed in subdued richly colored lighting. Family style specials are served daily which include antipasto and a choice of soup or salad.

Family and group party prices at Dragon House Restaurant (1647 Solano Ave., Berkeley; 528-1299) make eating out easy. This restaurant is one of Solano Avenue's special finds. They offer Szechuan and Hunan specialties.



Owner Harinder Bains at India Pavilion Restaurant (2914 College Ave., Elmwood Dist., Berkeley. 841-6871)

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725 APT. FOR RENT
1 BEDROOMS

\$630 \$640 One bedroom, Adams Point, dishwasher, parking, 1-19-6718

\$630 QUIET secure clean building. Close to Piedmont. Transportation. 601-8614

\$635 \$655 NEW security building. Microwave, dishwasher, garbage disposal, refrigerator, balcony, garage, laundry. Easy access to San Francisco, Berkeley, Walnut Creek. 125 Moss Ave. 547-4728

\$635 LUXURY 1 bedroom on the lake. 800 sq ft, dishwasher, microwave, carpet, Cable, security, parking. Near bus 763-5899

\$635 SPACIOUS 1 bedroom condo near Rose Garden and Grand Lake shops. Balcony, dishwasher, very clean, quiet. Parking included 593-7860

\$650 DIRECTLY ON LAKE
Views, elegant park setting. Some utilities, convenient location. Parking 841-1960

\$650 \$690 TWO 1 bedroom apartments in large older home. One with fireplace. Near Lake. Laundry facilities. Parking. Includes all utilities 237-5094, leave message

\$650 \$725 ROCKRIDGE, pool, spa, gym, sauna, security building, parking. Decade Management 671-9740; 654-1525

\$650 \$800 ADAMS Point 1 bedrooms, view, security building, laundry, parking, no pets, 893-7311

\$650 355 SANTA Clara Ave. near Grand Lake Theatre Large 1+bedroom unit, hardwood floors. All utilities included. 547-1907

\$650 ADAMS Point huge 1 bedroom, new appliances, large patio. No pets. Security building 839-8480

\$650 GLENVIEW- Top floor with views. Sunny, hardwood floors, walk in closet, yard. Near shops 482-5790

\$650 INCLUDES Utilities. Two room apartment unfurnished. Sunny, all new, near Berkeley First and last; plus \$600 deposit 654-9411

\$650 LAKE Merritt large 1 bedroom, balcony, new carpets, newly painted Security building. All electric appliances. Available February 1st. Garage available. Dorothy 832-8296, Tel: 465-7500

\$650 LARGE 1 bedroom n-law apartment on Oakland- Piedmont border. Available February 15 763-4727

\$650 LIGHT, bright, third floor apartment in sixplex. All utilities, private storage, laundry, off-street parking. No pets 428-5424

\$650 OFF Piedmont Avenue, lots of closets, laundry room, quiet secure building, sunny, parking included. No pets 428-4913

\$650 ONE bedroom, very large, dining room, alcove, tree view, in quiet older well maintained building, hardwood floors, 41st St near Piedmont Ave 601-5501

\$650 ONE bedroom, sunny unit, hardwood floors, large closets, breakfast area, garage. Dena/Alcataz (415)905-6823

\$650 ONE bedroom, large, remodeled, hardwoods, deck view, laundry, parking, sunny, near bus, BART 632-6195

\$650 ONE bedroom, high ceilings, hardwood floors, 5 closets, sun deck, laundry, 4231 Montgomery St Showing Saturday, January 30th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 653-3405 mon ngs

\$650 RAND and Mandana, quiet building, cheerful kitchen, balcony, walk to SF bus, available now. No pets 832-8356

\$660 LARGE 1 bedroom in charming older building, 1 block off Piedmont Ave 658-7340

\$675 SPECTACULAR LAKE VIEW
One bedroom in small building on Lake with hardwood floors, balcony, Levelors, laundry, separate garage 832-5128

\$675 CHARMING 1 bedroom in-law unit in Crocker Highlands. Includes utilities. Call 763-4575

\$675 ONE bedroom, unfurnished, spacious apartment. Quiet, home-like building, FIREPLACE, parking, good location. Message, 658-4152

\$685 REALLY NICE
Spacious 1 bedroom, Adams Point, fireplace, dining, hardwoods, security, 307 Lee 848-1070

\$685 LARGE 1 bedroom near Piedmont Ave. Carpeting, laundry, parking, security. Call 268-7956 evenings, weekends

\$685 SPANISH style classic large 1 bedroom, hardwood floors, all utilities included. 834-3110

\$685 ONE bedroom apartment on Howe, heat paid. Old World Charm. Also large 5 room flat, hardwood floors, pet okay \$860. Also 1 bedroom cottage on Mandana, \$735. Also 1 bedroom apartment in town of Piedmont, separate entrance. Good schools, pet okay, 785-837-7055

\$700 PIEDMONT SCHOOLS
1 bedroom, close-in location with hardwood floors, beautifully landscaped Steve, 906-8971

\$700 LARGE 1 bedroom in-law. Oakland Hills/ Crestmont area, fireplace, private patio, utilities, laundry. 530-6393

\$715 SUNNY 1 bedroom with deck. 1 Kelton Court. Available now. Agent 339-8160 Ext. 242

\$725 PIEDMONT AVE.
1 bedroom, close-in location with hardwood floors, beautifully landscaped Steve, 906-8971

\$725 APT. FOR RENT
1 BEDROOMS

\$800 On the Lake. 900-1000 sq. ft., 1 bedroom flats, 1929 luxury Art Deco Building. Hardwood floors, walk-in closets, steam heat included, cats okay 410-902

\$800 SPACIOUS 4+ rooms, fireplace, garden, quiet, cul-de-sac off Park Blvd. Pet okay 848-3522 evenings

\$815 UPPER Rockridge, quiet building, near Piedmont, large 1 bedroom with yard, private garage 652-7531

\$845 UPPER GRAND LAKE

Location, choice residential area between Grand and Lakeshore above MacArthur. Charming 1920's fourplex featuring spacious 1 bedroom flat, separate formal dining room or den, hardwood floors, elegant living room with marble fireplace. Garage included. See to appraiser 482-3372; 547-4020

\$850 AND 1 up 1 and 2 bedroom luxury apartments. Fireplace. Washer, dryer in each unit. Near Rockridge. Piedmont, transportation 288-7847

\$900 GRAND Lake spacious redecorated 1 bedroom flat, fourplex, hardwood floors, formal dining, view. 843-9508

\$900 INCLUDES all utilities. Large 1 bedroom in-law, full kitchen and bath, view of Golden Gate, cedar paneling, washer/dryer access, separate entrance, yard. Furnishing negotiable 658-6970

\$975 INCLUDES utilities. Montclar, Bedroom/ studio in-law, separate entrance, full kitchen, bath, laundry access, carpeted, deck not hot, landscaped, woodsy setting, spectacular bay view. Near bus, village shopping, highway 13 ac. steps No pets 339-2760

\$1100 THE APARTMENT Fully furnished 1 bedroom. Probably California's best. Optional duration. Villa Renoir 530-0410

725 APT. FOR RENT
1 BEDROOMS

\$800 On the Lake. 900-1000 sq. ft., 1 bedroom flats, Lake view, off-street parking, coin laundry, Cat Tina at 639-7155

\$800 LARGE. 1-1/4 bedroom, walk-in closets, wall-to-wall carpeting, washer/dryer, automatic garage door, yard. Water, garbage paid. 1 year lease 3038 Harrison, Oakland 236-1495

\$800 MONTCLAIR/ Piedmont 2 bedroom, 1 bath, carpet, patio, garage. No pets. Deposit 482-1516

\$800 SPACIOUS 2 bedroom, 2 bath, formal dining area, modern kitchen, fireplace, quiet building. Garage included. 420-0964

\$800 FOURPLEX 2 blocks Lake, sunny, 2 bedrooms, dining room, patio, eat-in kitchen, dishwasher, laundry, hardwood floors, parking, views 527-6724

\$825 \$830 SPACIOUS 2 bedroom apartments. 3 pools, 2 clubhouses, numerous lagoons and fountains, near BART. Ask about our special Lake-side Village Apartments, 4170 Spring Lake Dr. (off Hesperian), San Leandro. Open 7 days, 330-5900

\$825-\$850 THREE bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, spacious

ADAMS POINT

531-6969
Lapham Management

531-6969
ADAMS POINT

LOW RENTS!

GREAT LOCATION!

Everything you need within walking distance

★ Stars ★

★ Dry Cleaning ★

★ BART ★

★ A short bus ride from UC Campus ★

January and February Move-In Specials

Call Lapham at 601-6962

726 APT. FOR RENT
2 BEDROOMS

\$855 TWO bedroom, 3 blocks Lake. Adams Point 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, \$825. Quiet 15 unit building. Carpet, appliances, lots of storage, eat-in kitchen, parking, laundry elevator. Call 465-9988

\$855 THREE bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, spacious

ADAMS POINT

531-6969
Lapham Management

531-6969
ADAMS POINT

Rental application processed same day.

Other units available.

\$825 INCREDIBLY spacious 2 bedroom apartment available in newly refurbished building, parking, 95 Linda Ave., Oakland. 420-8943

\$825 \$825 SUNNY, spacious. Best North Lake location

★ 415 LAGUNAS AVE. 2 bedroom, 2 bath

\$825 SUNNY, spacious. Best North Lake location

1 block to bus and shopping. Intercom entry, garage, laundry Manager #101, 763-8710

420 PERKINS ST - Penthouse 2 bedroom, 2 bath

\$825 Must see! Great Lake view, huge sun deck (5th floor). Private entrance, elevator, parking, laundry

Manager #101, 763-8710

\$825 \$825 SUNNY, spacious. Best North Lake location

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COMPLETE domestic service Housecleaning/keeping: windows, yards and hauling. Mature, reliable couple References: 549-1077

WE'RE reliable, reasonable and your house will be spotlessly clean. Senior discount. Ave C, 199-3712, 525-2933

HOUSECLEANER 12 years experience, excellent references Available, clean Call Dagmar, 415-905-6488

HOUSECLEANING Service Reliable, excellent references, responsible. 5 years experience Reasonable prices. Call (210) 540-1164

OFFICES, houses, apartments, empty or full. Cleaners welcome. Great references. Experience. Reasonable rates. 223-1490

HOUSECLEANING 7 days a week, efficient, good references. Great work. Call 262-9973 Sandra

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EXPERIENCED housecleaner, excellent references, own car. Full-time 534-9037

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MAGIC housecleaning. One time projects or weekly service. Will organize, run errands. Experienced. Dennis 510-436-3322

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Brace's Carpet and Upholstery Care. 12-15¢ per sq ft. Expert at work! 930-7549

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HOUSESITTING/ Sublet. Referred couple from Waukesha, Wisconsin seek 30-90 day beginning mid-April. May. (408)287-5942

RESPONSIBLE, mature professional woman will care for your home. Long term preferred. Great references 415-457-0632

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LANDSCAPE enhancement Make the most of your outdoor space. Experienced horticulturalist to assist you with your gardening needs. Consultation, design, installation #45247 Tim Ryan 436-5737

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BONDED, insured. Deadbolts installed. For ergonomic needs. Auto keys. Glenview Key and Lock, 4195 Park Blvd. 530-6141. Contractor license #453533

PLUMBING - new or remodel, license #482667 Call Alan at Forbes Plumbing 452-2844

Reliable Plumbing Service

New construction. Insured. Finest work, repair a specialty. Appliance installation. License #539376. Call 526-2228

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JOHN Mulligan Construction #31431 Scottish Stone Mason since 1962. Stones, Bricks, Blocks Bonded Insured 510-531-8190

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We have been moving Piedmont and Montclair families for years. Ask your neighbor! Minimum legal rates for insured professional service. Anywhere in California. Expert piano movers. Call 85972. We care about your move. 893-9220

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Residential - Commercial

Interior - Exterior

Spray - Brush - Waterblast

Waterproofing

Insured

Over 20 years experience

In Oakland and Piedmont area

Lic. No. 497281

Call for Free Estimate

Large or small jobs

(Interiors a Specialty)

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Evenings or Saturday calls OK

PAINTING, interior, exterior. Expert workmanship, work guaranteed. Reasonable license #293168 James Frydahl, 530-8599

BILL WONNENBERG & SON

Since 1960. Interior and exterior. License #206273 525-8676 and 932-2199

Shamrock Enterprises

10% Discount

Interior- exterior. Excellent references. Montclair resident. License #461502 339-1116

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Highest quality work inside and out. Estimates and consultation are free. Many very satisfied local references. Fully insured. License #515120. Jeff 527-2673

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Competitive rates. Interior and Exterior Residential and Commercial. Free color consultation. Call now for free estimate! State license #624035 Insured and bonded 465-9521

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Exterior/ interior residential, commercial, finest preparation, restoration. Decks restored. Local references #643-769 534-6244

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One or more rooms, touch-up or trim. Please call Steve 655-6807

LOW Winter Rates House Painting Meticulous, Efficient, Reasonable. Many local references #624530. Jim Hooper 530-7501

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Interior and exterior. License #570050 939-2498

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METRO Painting. Average room, \$40, average selling; \$40. Includes, paint labor, preparation. Quality guaranteed. Free estimates #616673 insured/bonded 669-2311

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Fifteen years experience, licensed, insured. Through preparation, quality painting. Numerous references, reasonable rates, free estimates. 655-6307

JAPANESE painter will work hard for you. Lic. 655 0750

PAUX Finishes, wallpapering, painting, glazing, Pots, bois, custom murals Yvonne (415)647-9343

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Kitchen cabinets refinished. Interior painting, wallpapering, refurbishing, sheetrock installed. repaired. License #461228 531-7447

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Quality painting and preparation. Licensed and insured. Many happy references 233-1544

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Professional preparation, superior painting \$12 an hour by bid. Local references 653-9362

WOMAN CONTRACTOR and all women crew. Fine interior painting, paperhanging, plaster and drywall repairs, wood striping/ refinishing 17 years experience with distinctive older homes, thorough preparation and protection of your home. Sensitive to women's needs. Impeccable local references. Renovations by Sherry Call Sherry Madison 215-5002

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A BETTER job. Professional painting, paperhanging. Folls, vinyls, flock, sensible prices. (510)523-3627

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RENOVATIONS by SHERRY Wall covering installations of all types of materials including hand painted period reproduction papers, analoyplast, fabrics and vinyls. Preparation and painting of all types of surfaces. Twelve years experience in fine older homes. Thorough preparation and protection of your floors and possessions. Reasonable and acceptable references. Sherry Madison 215-5002

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CALLAHAN PIANO SERVICE

Tuning, repairs, appraisals. Craftsman member Piano Technicians Guild 835 8448

STEINWAY's former Carnegie Hall tuner, Benjamin Treuhaft \$60 (mention this ad) 843-3823

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PARK BLVD PLUMBING

Water Heaters 893-5940 Plumbing Repairs 2345 Park Blvd Since 1945

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Reliable Plumbing Service

New construction. Insured. Finest work, repair a specialty. Appliance installation. License #539376. Call 526-2228

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Shamrock Enterprises

Lic. #502100 Roots and Gutters- 10% Discount. Local References Montclair resident

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TRADITIONAL Family Value Plumbing serving greater Montclair/ Piedmont areas over 20 years

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PAFFICLING Plumbing Systems. Highest quality repair plumbing: water heaters, disposals, drains, leak detection. Also remodels, new construction. Competitive rates, free estimates, work guaranteed.

When over 100 Bay Area contractors agree on one plumbing company, you can bet it's good!

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HOMEOWNERS! Contractors, small, experienced, plumbing company serving Montclair, Oakland, Hills. Quick service, free estimates, references. Kleier Plumbing 638-8921, licensed, bonded.

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PAFFICLING Plumbing Systems. Highest quality repair plumbing: water heaters, disposals, drains, leak detection. Also remodels, new construction. Competitive rates, free estimates, work guaranteed.

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REAL ESTATE

January 28, 1993 HILLS PUBLICATIONS Page 23

State adopts new disclosure laws

Starting Jan. 1 of this year, California home sellers must comply with a new earthquake hazards disclosure requirement. The state law requires the seller to deliver a copy of a booklet entitled "The Homeowner's Guide to Earthquake Safety" to the buyer.

Your agent can do this for you. The seller must also complete the Residential Earthquake Hazards Report" which is included in the booklet, in order to disclose any known earthquake weaknesses.

does not require that a seller complete earthquake strengthening (also called retrofitting) before selling. The intent of the law is to raise homeowner's awareness of preventative measures that can be taken to improve a home's ability to withstand earthquakes.

To further encourage earthquake strengthening, the state provides a property tax exemption for improvements you complete to help your home resist earthquakes. That is, the value of your home

Sellers must describe work done to correct quake weaknesses

The new law requires sellers to disclose knowledge of any of the following deficiencies: The absence of anchor bolts securing the plate to the foundation; unreinforced perimeter cripple walls; unreinforced pier-and-post foundations; unbraced first-story walls; unreinforced masonry perimeter foundation; unreinforced masonry dwelling walls; a house with walls, posts or columns that are tall and unbraced; a living area above a garage; and a water heater that isn't anchored, strapped or secured.

Sellers also must describe work they have completed to correct any known earthquake weaknesses. The law requires disclosure; it

will not be reassessed for property tax purposes when you take permits out to complete the work, as is normally the case with other home improvements.

The earthquake hazards disclosure form can be completed without the aid of a contractor, but care should be taken filling out the form. Greg Prinsze, president of Earthquake Safety, a Berkeley company specializing in residential seismic strengthening, advises that sellers attach a sheet with additional explanations when necessary to avoid making inaccurate disclosures.

Questions number 2, for instance, asks the homeowner: Is the house anchored or bolted to the



Real Estate Forum

■ DIAN HYMER

foundation? There are four possible answers provided on the form: "yes," "no," "doesn't apply," and "don't know." If you've had anchor bolts installed you might be inclined to answer "yes" and leave it at that.

But frequently the foundation of a house is not completely accessible for bolting, in which case it might have been only partially bolted. Rather than just answer "yes," it would be better to attach an explanation stating that the foundation was only bolted in the easily accessible areas and that some areas (behind finished walls, for instance) remain unbolted.

The new state booklet is indeed informative, complete with photos from past earthquakes in case you're convincing that earthquakes can cause serious property damage.

This booklet tells you how to identify each of the weaknesses you're required to disclose and it tells you what you can do to strengthen them. The booklet also states that "if you strengthen your house's earthquake weaknesses before you sell, you may get a better price for your house."

See Hymer, next page

Brown offers housing bill

Realtors applaud mortgage fund plan

By Steve Miller
Hills Newspapers

California's sluggish economy and state residents hoping to purchase their first home were both given a boost this week by the introduction of legislation by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown designed to create a state-sponsored mortgage insurance fund.

The fund will assist home buyers who are unable to use the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) program due to the high cost of California homes. In this state, home prices require mortgages that exceed the FHA maximum loan amount of \$151,725.

As estimated 55,000 California families may be able to purchase first homes with downpayments as low as 3 percent of the purchase price if Assembly Bills 214 and 215 become law.

In the Bay Area, a family would be able to purchase a home costing as much as \$237,337 with a downpayment of \$7,120. The maximum loan amount in this example would be \$230,217, or \$78,492 higher than the maximum allowed by the FHA.

"This legislation is going to help thousands of families in California discover that home ownership is no longer an impossible dream," Brown said Tuesday.

The California Association of Realtors has thrown its support behind the bills. "We applaud Speaker Brown for introducing this legislation, and we are confident that the entire legislature will recognize how critical this program is to helping first-time homebuyers and the overall California economy," said C.A.R. president Walt McDonald.

"These bills will help put the state's troubled economy on the road to recovery, since home purchases create jobs linked directly to new construction or the sale of existing homes," he said. "Virtually every home sale also triggers ripple effects in many other

areas of the economy, resulting in everything from loan processing to business for moving companies to furniture and appliance sales."

Dennis Hendrickson, president of the Berkeley Association of Realtors, said the program holds great potential. "55,000 sales transactions is a lot of transactions," he said. Many first-time buyers will buy homes that are occupied by families that will likely move up to a slightly larger and more expensive home, said Hendrickson. "The market builds in precisely that fashion."

"First-time buyers are part of See Brown, next page

Realtor Profile

Name: Dick Cohen.

Title: Sales agent, Wells & Bennett, Leimert.

Address: Montclair.

Family: Wife Kay, one daughter.

Career: Joined Wells & Bennett in Oct., 1989; made the company's Top Ten in his second year of real estate sales; has been a top producer four quarters in a row.



the beautiful homes and neighborhoods we have to offer."

— Compiled by Steve Miller

Grubb & Ellis

PIEDMONT LISTINGS

COMMANDING BAY VIEW \$1,300,000 JINI KELLEY \$1,300,000
Custom traditional is great for entertaining. Featuring wrap-around decks, wet-bar, den, offices, family room, pool, spa. Take the elevator or stairs to the spacious living room.

OAKLAND-BERKELEY-EAST BAY

PONTCLAIR MEDITERRANEAN

PHYLLIS RAYMOND \$1,255,000

Pontclair side is the setting for this stunning and immaculate showpiece offering den, in-law room, bonus room, wine cellar, remodeled kitchen, master retreat & a greenhouse.

MAGNIFICENT COLONIAL SUSIE MCGLYNN \$699,000

Single detailing with a knotty pine paneled den, rumpus room, sewing room & spacious yard area for entertaining. A terrific family home in desirable Piedmont Pines.

NEW DECO CONTEMPORARY HAL CASTLE \$659,000

Architectural craftsmanship is evident in this 90's Deco home. Extensive glass opens to a Bay view living, master bedroom, and den. Marble tile complements the Euro - Kitchen.

TRADITIONAL BEAUTY J.R. LONG & W. KASHIWA \$469,000

Custom new construction. Quality design and details throughout, 3 bedrooms, 2+ baths and in the Berkeley hills with wonderful views of the Bay and San Francisco!

OPULENT LIVING HAL CASTLE \$418,000

A private setting among trees. Rich wood details, open floor plan with generous room sizes.

ONE ACRE CONTEMPORARY VINCENT SILOS \$409,000

Den & immaculate 3 bedroom, 3 bath with framed Bay view, chef's kitchen, master suite, walk-out court and level out to patio with built-in pool. Perfect for family or exec. living.

HISTORIC JULIA MORGAN RESIDENCE THOMAS WURST \$359,000

On the market this is a registered Julia Morgan with original blueprints. Very spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, new eat-in kitchen, enclosed sun porch, large yard, upgrades and much more.

SUNNY OASIS HAL CASTLE \$319,000

Surrounded by trees this spacious home offers a den, family room, level lot and hot tub. Perfect for large families in the Montclair School district. A mountain retreat - city convenient.

VICTOR FIERRO \$319,000

Family home designed by Tom Lowe. Flexible floor plan for executives or large families. High ceilings, family room & decks provide a wonderful setting for entertaining.

BERKELEY HILLS CHARMER VICTOR FIERRO \$319,000

Large home is perfect for executives or a large family. Nestled in the trees it offers privacy and a great view. This home has dramatic vaulted ceiling & large living & family rooms.

PIEDMONT AVE REMODEL J.R. LONG & W. KASHIWA \$319,500

Single story, single charm & choice Piedmont Ave neighborhood making this spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home a wonderful opportunity. Immaculate full - remod...move in today!

NEVER CONTEMPORARY ED KUO \$314,995

Move you in! Lease-option this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with fireplace & 2-car attached garage. Charming brown shingle exterior. Great opportunity for first - time buyers.

CHARMING TRADITIONAL NANCY S. WELK \$299,500

Brand new! Updated 3+ bedroom, 1+ bath North Berkeley home on a pretty, tree-lined street. Spacious Ave, shops and restaurants. Move-in condition.

IMMACULATE TOWNSHOME NANCY S. WELK \$289,500

For a quick close. Gorgeous townhome in Immaculate condition. Pool & club.

Remodeled kitchen & baths. Located in upper Rockridge - what more do you need?

HANDSOME TRADITIONAL RACHEL BALLER \$289,000

3 bedrooms, 2 baths with Bay views off the deck and from the yard. Light filled and architecturally throughout. Security system - immaculate condition. Great for entertaining.

FAMILY RETREAT EARLE SHENK \$265,000

10 of town guests can stay poolside in the separate cottage while you enjoy the 4 bedroom

on the ideal 1/4 acre lot. Friendly family neighborhood.

THE MARKET J.R. LONG & W. KASHIWA \$239,000

A renowned custom wood artist whose work is gloriously displayed in the entry and bedroom doors. Beautiful craftsman bungalow.

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Are you confused by fluctuating financing rates?

How do you get pre-qualified for a loan?

Do you wonder whether you need title insurance?

How do you prepare your home for selling?

Real estate "HELP LINE" guarantees to return your call within 24 hours with answers to your questions or will refer you the person or agency who can best serve you.

FOR IMPORTANT ANSWERS TO YOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS, CALL "1-800-690-HELP"

NAKAMURA REALTORS INC.

OPEN HOME SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2-4:30

OAKLAND - LINCOLN HEIGHTS AREA
\$199,500 - 2463 DELMER STREET, OAKLAND
FAB big 2+ bd. New kitchen. Big yard. Just move-in! View of temple. Nakamura 848-2724 Diane 526-5273

BY APPOINTMENT

BERKELEY
\$225,000 - 3503 KANSAS STREET, BERKELEY
Three bd. Craftsman with commercial building. Nakamura 848-2724 Theo Tagami 649-9006

2554 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley
848-2724

MASON-McDUFFIE ... Welcome Home

CUSTOM BUILT.....\$399,000

Breath-taking view of three bridges with in-law or au-pair possibility. Four bedrooms, 3 baths on 1/4 acre.

LUISA CASTILLO/LOGENE BUTLER 526-5143

WALK TO ALBANY SCHOOLS.....\$379,000

From this gracious 4 bedroom home with beautiful details: in-laid floors, built-ins, fireplace. FRANCINE DIPALMA 849-3711, 526-7055

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE VIEW.....\$375,000

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home all on one level. On approximately one quarter acre, mostly level. Two car garage, family room, hot tub and more.

MARY GRAY 527-9800

FANTASTIC VIEW! WONDERFUL YARD!.....\$369,000

Exercise your green thumb while gazing at the Golden Gate. Three bedrooms, updated kitchen and baths. Easy to see. Don't miss.

HOLLY ROSE 849-3711, 273-9329

SUPER CRAFTSMAN.....\$349,000

Located in Berkeley. Remodeled kitchen and super rear unit!

MITCH GRASHIN 524-2526, 524-2983

BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED!.....\$330,000

Charming 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with great view!

PHYLIS HEWITT 526-5143

BEST PRICE IN 1000 OAKS.....\$285,000

First time on market in 40 years for this gem. New paint, new bath. Move right in to this friendly North Berkeley neighborhood.

ERIKA CELESTRE 849-3711, 524-2684

INVESTMENT OR OWNER OCCUPANCY.....\$259,000

Berkeley fourplex with two huge vacant units. Good rents. Near BART.

GRIGSBY WOTTON 849-3711, 849-1244

CLASS EXTRAORDINNAIRE!!!.....\$244,500

Abounds in this beautiful townhome nestled on a gorgeous hilltop. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family room, views. Too beautiful too miss.

WENDY BAKKENTA 524-2526, 527-1507

TWO HOUSES AND A COTTAGE.....\$69,000 \$169,000, \$175,000

Ideal for partners. Gorgeous custom features, some great live/work spaces, and a pretty garden. GRIGSBY WOTTON 849-3711, 849-1244

HURRY! NEW LOW PRICE.....\$126,900

The owner is more ready to sell this spacious starter. Bright, roomy living/dining area with fireplace; much more!

LYNNE HAGEMAN 527-9800, 528-2630

DO YOU HAVE ANY REAL ESTATE QUESTIONS?

Are you confused by fluctuating financing rates?

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Real estate "HELP LINE" guarantees to return your call within 24 hours with answers to your questions or will refer you the person or agency who can best serve you.

FOR IMPORTANT ANSWERS TO YOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS, CALL "1-800-690-HELP"

LEVEL-IN HOME IN THE EL CERRITO HILLS.....\$275,000

A well maintained house in a prestigious area. Three bedrooms and two baths. A master suite & two car garage. Only 30 years young. Call 527-0000 #23054 Call 235-6200

CHARMING TRADITIONAL VICTORIAN HOME.....\$195,000

Comfortable two plus bedroom home in excellent condition. Relaxing living room. Fireplace and wet bar in the dining room. Beautiful hardwood floors. Reduced to \$195,000 #W21804 Call 235-8200

HOME PLUS INCOME!.....\$169,500

Two bedroom, one bath home and a one bedroom rental unit to help pay the mortgage. Great opportunity for first time buyers or investors.

Good location. \$169,500 #W22533 Call 235-8200

ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!.....\$155,000

Sparkling and fresh three bedroom, two bath home located in Yerba Buena. Nicely remodeled kitchen and bath. New carpets, new paint inside and out. Good location, \$155,000 #W23169

PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS!.....\$149,000

A two bedroom home in absolutely mint condition. Large fenced yard with deck. Garage with interior access. Good area. \$149,000 Ask about special financing with low down payment. Magany Abbass.

510-233-7329

BERKELEY

2880 Telegraph Avenue
(510) 845-0200

EL CERRITO

10240 San Pablo Avenue
(510) 527-9800

ALBANY

1417 Solano Avenue
(510) 524-2526

KENSINGTON

281 Arlington Avenue
(510) 526-5143

HOMESITY

RELOCATION CENTER

BERKELEY NORTH

1539 Shattuck Avenue
(510) 849-3711

SP

Security Pacific

Real Estate Brokerage

235-8200

222-8340



On Your Home

BRIAN GARDNER

Questions & answers about seasonal projects

Q: With the heavy rains that the Bay Area experienced recently, what sort of preventive maintenance steps should I be taking to protect my home? Also, what things can I watch for during the rainy season which might be early warning signs that repairs are needed due to rain damage?

A: Do a visual inspection. Look for any signs of water damage, peeling paint, water dripping or mildew on the ceilings, walls and floors. As for preventative maintenance, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. If there are areas in your home that obviously need to be replaced, like doors, windows, or roof, or any drainage problems, then by all means fix these.

Q: Besides my own personal taste, are there any guidelines regarding how often a bathroom or kitchen should be remodeled?

A: One of the main arguments for a remodel would be a deterioration in the bath or kitchen area. Your local real estate agent can offer guidelines about how various remodeling styles might effect the resale price of your home.

Having your home appraised can give you a good idea of its value so that any remodeling you do doesn't overbuild the home compared to the price you can reasonably expect to get at the time of the sale.

Q: Now that the rainy season is here, I have put many outside projects on hold and am wanting to get a lot of indoor painting done. When it's damp outside, is it a bad time to do interior painting?

A: No. Inside painting can be performed even when the Bay Area is host to a winter storm system.

Q: If I don't have access to the

crawl space above the house, shouldn't I have the checked to see if some leak has started, or will always show up by way of water damage on the walls or drips from the ceiling?

A: Paying a contractor to find a leak has started is fruitless. Knowing water will make its way known. If the roof is leaking, need of replacement, work done. Having a sound roof protects a good portion of the house from the elements.

Brian Gardner is market director of Montclair Construction and Maintenance Co. in O



339-8400

6211 LaSalle Avenue
Oakland, CA 94611

OPEN SUNDAY 1:00 - 3:00

4266 EDGE UPPER OAKMORE \$319,000
CHARMING SPANISH MED. Seller is very motivated. 2+BR, 2BA.
Martha Shin, 531-8643

3700 BALFOUR CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$305,000
LOCATION & CHARM with tons of potential in basement & attic. 3BR w/garden.
Dell M. Orr 339-8559

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 - 4:30

6691 GIVIN PIEDMONT PINES \$315,000
LOADED WITH POSSIBILITIES! 3BR, 1 1/2BA. Sep. office, level yard, hot tub.
Kathie English, 530-5900

3249 CRANE WAY JOAQUIN MILLER HEIGHTS \$289,000
First open Remodelers paradise. Large level lot, gorgeous view, 3+ BR, 3BA.
Harriet Schoen, 531-2437

4351 WHITTE UPPER FRUITVALE \$279,000
Hillside hideaway! Fabulous gardens, southbay view, 3BR, 2BA. Negotiate
structural work. Harriet Schoen, 531-2437

2127 ACTON BERKELEY \$209,000
Excellent starter, sunny, large yard, hardwood floors & fireplace. Split level.
2BR, 1BA, Nick, 525-2727

BY APPOINTMENT

PIEDMONT - French Chateau on over an acre of park like setting. 6BR & 2 separate maids quarters. Jeanette Roach, 547-1760 \$4,500,000

PIEDMONT - The best of European craftsmanship - Sweeping views, magnificent architecture, 6+BR, & pool. Jeanette Roach, 547-1760 \$2,995,000

PIEDMONT-SIDE-OF-MONTCLAIR - View! Property! Location! Large family home in exquisite condition. 5BR - den, Rumpus. Jeanette Roach, 547-1760 \$1,175,000

STATELY MED. In pristine condition. Large level lot. 4BR, 3 1/2BA. Sue Williams, 482-5077 \$1,135,000

FRENCH PROVINCIAL - Before you rebuild, consider the old world charm and magnificent landscaping of this elegant home. 6BR, new kitchen, views. Lois Johnson, 339-8400 \$869,000

SKYLINE - SWIMMING ANYONE! Spectacular pool located in its own house of Cedar, 1.47 acres. Level ranch hm., vaulted wooden ceilings in living room & recreation room. 4BR, 3BA, formal dining. Helen Nichols, 658-6499 \$795,000

PIEDMONT - INTERESTING Architecture! All level hm., w/HUGE living rm. Approx 1/2 acre of park like setting. Private Jeanette Roach, 547-1760 \$795,000

ROCKRIDGE - Family home, great floor plan. 4BR, 2 1/2BA, Rumpus & pool. In move - in condition. Jeanette Roach, 547-1760 \$789,000

MONTCLAIR - PRICE REDUCED - Endless views above it all! 4BR, 3BA. "Great room" with wet bar & wood stove adjoins excellent kitchen. Formal dining, 2 partially finished rooms for future development. Just 7 yrs old! Helen Nicholas, 531-7348 \$569,000

PIEDMONT-SIDE-OF-MONTCLAIR - Super architecture, huge lot, with waterfall, peaceful privacy & piedmont schools available, all add up to exceptional value! 3BR, 3BA, den, study nook & formal dining. Helen Nicholas, 531-8400 \$555,000

MONCLAIR - On top of the world! Both Bay & Contra Costa view. Large family home over 3500 sq. ft. 3BR, 3BA, HI ceilings - a must see! Helen Bly, 658-6499 \$539,000

MONCLAIR - Seller is very motivated! 2yr. custom contemp., Pano view. 3BR, 3 1/2BA, office. Many custom features. Martha Shin, 531-8643 \$519,000

CROCKER HIGHLANDS - Wonderful family home on double lot. 4+BR, 3 1/2BA & excellent S. F. commute. Jeanette Roach, 547-1760 \$489,000

PIEDMONT - Pleasing Prairie - style home. Move right in! HUGE rooms - 3+BR, great schools, good play areas too. Lyn Murray, 339-6666 \$445,000

CHARMING CROCKER AREA - Spacious 3+BR, 2BA, Au pair potential. Delightful details! Close to shops & transportation. Harriet Schoen, 531-2437 \$345,000

PIEDMONT PINES - Wonderful Contemp. w/GG View, 3BR, 2BA. Martha Shin 531-8643 \$329,000

REDWOOD HEIGHTS - Very spacious 3BR, 2BA in prime area. Rec. Rm., great family room & kitchen, Private Yd. Carol Cohen, 531-4218 \$295,000

SKYLINE AREA - Prime Parkridge Estates. Level 3BR, 2BA, Family dining rm. 3 car garage. Carol Cohen, 531-4218 \$285,000

MONTCLAIR - 2BR,1BA on quiet lane. S. F. Bay view from oak studded yard. Move - in condition! Lyn Murray, 339-6666 \$259,000

UPPER LAUREL - Fix opportunity! 3BR, 2BA, Master suite & large level yard. Jeff Hilpert, 693-7545 \$185,000

MAXWELL PARK - You'll love it! Bright, well cared for bungalow on corner lot, fenced yard. 2BR, 1BA, large kitchen. Judy Maher, 531-6121 \$162,000

CONDOMINIUMS

PENTHOUSE - Elegant city lifestyle - 3BR, fireplace, sunny decks & privacy. Lois Johnson, 339-8400 \$209,000

SECURE URBANITY W/PANO - Views - Hi-rise 2 & 2 w/HUGE living room & deck overlooking Lake Merritt! Elegant lifestyle, 24-hr doorman. Owner will carry! D.C. Hodges 531-7667 \$185,000

FIRST CLASS CONDO - Immaculate 1BR, extra large office/den, Tiled Kitchen, in-unit laundry. Fireplace. Harriet Schoen, 531-2437 \$159,000

PIEDMONT AVE., AREA - Large 2BR, 2BA formal dining rm., large family styled kitchen. 1222 sq. ft. Carol Cohen 531-4218 \$149,000

SMASHING VIEWS OF THE BAY - from this bright & sunny 2BR, 1BA condo. Within walking distance to Piedmont Ave. Top floor! Carol Cohen 531-4218 \$129,000

LUXURY ON A BUDGET - Quiet unit in stylish building, 1BR, fireplace & washer/dryer in unit. Joan E. Hause, 339-6160 x239 \$114,500

PIEDMONT AVE., AREA - We have a number of excellent units for the discriminating buyer. In prime locations & bldgs. Contact Carol Cohen, 531-4218 for further information \$109,900

LIGHT, QUIET & PLEASANT - A junior one studio perfectly designed w/fireplace and entry hall! Joan Hause, 339-6160 x239 \$82,500

OAKLAND LOTS

CLAREMONT PINES - 10,500 sq ft. on a gentle up slope lot w/a level back yard. Drive by 5615 Glenbrook Dr, off Broadway Ter. Then call Dave English, 530-5900 \$210,000

UP & LEVEL IN CLAREMONT PINES - Includes preliminary plans & soils. Drive by 50 Beechwood, then call Dave English, 530-5900 \$198,000

IMPRESSIVE VIEW & CONTOUR - Burned lot not to be missed. Joan E. Hause, 339-6160 x239 \$175,000

SUPER BUILDING SITE - Expansive, nearly level, woodsy setting. Harriet Schoen, 531-2437 \$160,000

UNPARALLELED BAY & BRIDGE VIEW - on 9600 sq. ft. in Montclair among half million + dollar homes. Helen Nichols, 531-8400 \$159,000

GREAT LARGE LOT - With reports available. Ideal location with peek - view. Call Now! Dell M. Orr, 339-8400 \$110,000

UPPER ROCKRIDGE - Drive by 258 Cross to see this outstanding buildable lot in most sought after location. Priced to sell! Carol Cohen, 531-4218 \$110,000

WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS

531-7000

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30 P.M.

1409 GRAND AVE. Piedmont. Completely remodeled 3BD, 2BA, \$345,000
custom kitchen, garage, level yard. Lisa Well 531-1653

56 ENTRADA. Piedmont Ave., Immac. Craftsman w/orig. detailing, 2/1, \$249,500
country kitchen, frm'l din. Walk to Piedmont Ave. Holda Hirshberg 531-6118

206 JOHN. Piedmont Ave. Just listed! Old world charm, Brown shingle \$229,000
craftsman in great area. Walk to shops, restaurants. Nancy Novick 482-2392

3760 39TH AVE. Laurel. Fit for royalty. New constr. OPEN SAT 2-4:30, \$175,000+
10 townhouses, 2 story design, 2/2, LR, frpl, gourmet kitch reflect your success.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT

SKYLINE EXECUTIVE LEASE OPTION. Spanish Mediterranean with \$789,000
panoramic bay view. Over 5,000 sq. ft. 5BD, 4BA. Holda Hirshberg 531-6118

MONCLAR OUTSTANDING NEARLY NEW CONSTRUCTION. View \$579,000
straight through Golden Gate. Tasteful colors & finishes. 4BD, Frm'l DR, FR w/rpl. Noll Davis 531-9536

TURN - OF - THE - CENTURY CHARM. Montclair 7 yrs old Victorian style with \$528,000
fine craftsmanship reminiscent of the past. Bay view. Marie Kenaga 339-1774

MONCLAR NEWER CONTEMPORARY. 3 yrs old, bay view, in-law unit \$525,000
Reduced again! Beautiful condition. Dorothy Carey 339-0484

PIEDMONT CHARMER. Formal dining room, 3BD, family room, wet bar, \$509,000
marble fireplace. Great views & gardens. Michael/Judy 530-4166

RIDGEMONT, ALL MODERN CONVENiences. Luxurious mstr ste, 1st flr \$485,000
BD & BA, 3 car garage. Incomparable views! Christine Christensen 530-8412

PIEDMONT 3+ BEDROOM BUNGALOW. Spacious master suite, frm'l dining \$397,000
with built-ins. Yard, Holda Hirshberg 531-6118

MONCLAR CLOSE IN convenience plus immac. cond. Cozy, pristine \$339,000
3BD on fenced 1/4 AC lot. Big master suite. Sandi Klemmer 654-4804

REDWOOD HGTS UNIQUE TUDOR. One of a kind 3 bdrm. Private garden \$319,500
den, attached garage. Charming and Immaculate. Diane McCan 531-7000

REDWOOD HGTS PANORAMIC VIEW. 3/2 Trd. Beautifully remodeled \$295,000
Plus, room, skylight, deck, spa & gazebo. Call to see! Diane McCan 531-7000

BERKELEY, MOTIVATED HUSBAND. Great Victorian. New foundation \$290,000
Will hear any ridiculous offer. Susie Lipp 482-8602

OAKNOLL, PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP. Wonderful neighborhood. 3BD, 1.5BA, \$252,000
Lovely family room. Immaculate home! Marianne Jamison 655-9615

GLENVIEW FAMILY HOME. 3BD, 2BA, family room hardwood, workshop \$249,000
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EL CERRITO. Grandma's house is for sale. 3BD, living room, w/rpl, \$235,000
hdwd floors, roomy & sunny yard. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

MORMON TEMPLE, JUST LISTED. Immaculate starter. Cozy bungalow in \$219,000
move-in cond. 2/1, FDR, det. 2 car gar w/workshop. Holda Hirshberg 531-6118

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Hymer...

continued from previous page

Following the Loma Prieta quake of 1989, prospective home buyers became keenly aware of the benefits of earthquake retrofitting. It's a feature buyers look for in a house. The cost to retrofit an unreinforced home is frequently taken into consideration by buyers, either at the time they make their offer to purchase a home or during the course of their inspections.

A word of caution about hiring contractors to complete earth-quake strengthening. Contractors who don't specialize in earthquake

retrofitting may cost less than professional specialists. It may be paying for a false sense of security. Shear panels that are not the proper width or that are not nailed or blocked correctly provide you with added strength. According to Prinsze, an inexperienced job can actually hurt a house, creating an unbalanced load that could be thrown further out of balance by the inspections.

Dian Hymer is a broker with Coldwell Banker in Oakland and author of "Buying a Home in California" (Chronicle Books

Brown...

continued from previous page

the engine that drives the real estate market, he said.

Here is how the program will work: The legislature will establish a state-sponsored mortgage insurance fund called the California Housing Loan Insurance Fund to provide mortgage insurance similar to that provided by the FHA program.

Lenders usually require mort-

gage insurance to provide protection against borrowers who make downpayments of less than 20 percent when purchasing homes.

General obligation bonds will provide the seed money for the program. Proposition 1 would cost \$200 million of bond funds in 1982 to assist first-time buyers, but only \$15 million of the offering was used. The remaining \$185 million would be used to finance the program.

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7908 TUNNEL ROAD: JOHN KARNAY
7,900 sq. ft. down slope off a private road. Building permits. Seller may carry.

Real estate firm experiments with informational videos

agency with experience, a friendly, professional sales staff, and a high profile in the market.

How do you get all this information without spending hours of your time?

If you go to Security Pacific Real Estate Brokerage in Richmond in a few weeks, you'll be handed a video cassette to take home and pop into your VCR. What you'll see is a six-minute film about the company. You'll

see shots of their two offices, sales agents and support staff at work; you'll learn about the firm's market position and how that benefits the client; you'll see owner Jack Burns talking with the staff, and a few shots of the computerized Multiple Listing Service.

The idea, according to Burns, is to give clients an opportunity to take the film home and watch it two or three times in the comfort of their living room. It also saves agents time and removes them

from the sometimes awkward position of having to boast about themselves and their company. "People tend to believe what they see on video or in print," said

'People tend to believe what they see on video'

—JACK BURNS

Burns. "And pictures are so much easier to follow than words."

The video was made by Interna-

tional Video Preview of Pleasanton, a firm that makes home show videos for real estate agencies.

"I think it's going to be a very positive step," Burns said.

Security Pacific has 120 agents between two offices and will begin using the films in late February. Agents may personalize the videos by attaching a one- or two-minute segment to the end that shows the agent and gives the viewer biographical and professional information.

Burns said he had invested a good sum of money into the project and that it was a bit of a gamble. But, he said, "hopefully we can use it for many years. We wanted to get our message out, and this is the best way to do it."



Del Rohde of IVP films (from left) Cynthia Burke, Jack Burns, David Kuchenthal and Pat Pre-



Jack Burns talks to David Kuchenthal during filming

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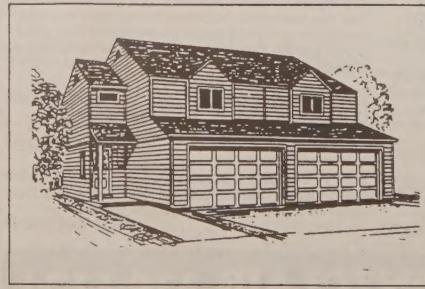
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Consistent roof gutter care helps avoid many problems

Professionals are available for tough jobs

Roof gutters should be cleaned, and repaired if necessary, every fall and spring to protect a house against serious problems resulting from poor drainage. These can range from basement leaks and foundation settling to leaking roofs and damage due to soaking of insulation.

Providing you do not mind working from a ladder, cleaning and inspecting gutters is usually easy. If you do not care to do the job yourself, hire a professional rather than forgo the task.

Gutter cleaning is offered by some gutter installation companies, as well as some roofing companies, chimney sweeps, handyman companies and tree and yard companies. Check the Yellow Pages of your local phone book for listings of these various businesses.

To clean gutters, choose a dry day. Work by standing on an extension ladder below the level of each gutter; cleaning gutters by kneeling on the roof invites a fall.

To position a ladder at a safe angle, rest it against a firmly anchored section of the gutter, extending the top at least a foot above the gutter. Set the bottom of the ladder away from the base of the house a distance that is one-quarter the height of the gutter.

Gloves are important

Wear heavy work gloves to protect your hands against scrapes. Carry aloft a bucket, a narrow gardening trowel or a plastic gutter scoop available at some hardware stores, and a whisk broom.

You will also need a metal hook for hanging the bucket from a lad-

der rung. Make one from a coat hanger, or buy one at a store that sells house painting supplies.

To clean a gutter, simply scoop and sweep out the contents and deposit the material in the bucket. If downspout openings contain wire traps, lift them and clean out debris.

Do not let gutter cleanings fall to the ground; they can muddy the siding. For safety, reach only a comfortable distance on each side with the scoop or whisk broom. Never reach so far that you must move your waist from between the ladder's sides. When you need to move the ladder, take the bucket and your tools down with you.

Check for leaks

Unless gutters are virtually free of dirt, cleaning them with a hard spray from a garden hose instead of by the above method can cause more problems than it solves. Besides dirty water overflowing the gutter, debris can become lodged in downspouts. But after you have cleaned the gutter by sweeping, it is a good idea to flush each one out with spray to check for leaks and other flaws.

Water should flow smoothly along gutters and into the downspouts. If pools form along a gutter's length, the slope may contain dips.

To make sure the slope is adequate, measure vertically between the gutters' ends and the horizontal edge of the roof directly above them. Gutters should slope downward at least a quarter inch for every 10 feet of length.

To find dips, stretch a string from one end of the gutter to the other. The top edges of each section should be parallel to the string.

If you find a dip, inspect the gutter hangers or other fasteners. Reattaching gutter sections to any hangers from which they have come loose will probably restore the slope. Replace missing or

broken hangers.

If a downspout drains sluggishly, it is probably clogged. Sometimes it can be cleared with water sprayed from a hose, but severe clogging requires a plumber's snake or a drain auger. Insert all devices for clearing into the spout at ground level if possible and force them upward.

If the downspout goes into the ground or is connected to more than one gutter, rent a motorized auger. Insert the end at a removable clean-out opening, if there is one, or by removing a whole section of gutter near the ground.

The auger can then be directed either up or down. If there are no cleanouts or removable sections, you will have to insert the auger into the downspout at roof level.

Preventing blockages

Installing leaf guards over gutters will help prevent future blockages. Leaf guards are strips of plastic or metal mesh that slide beneath the lowest course of roofing and extend outward, covering the gutter.

Innovative solid and slatted types are also available. With guards, water off the roof can easily flow into the gutter but leaves and other debris cannot.

Most hardware stores and home centers carry leaf guards. Home-made guards can be made from strips of galvanized wire mesh having quarter-inch square openings.

If any joints between metal gutter sections leak, seal them with Butyl caulk compound; use a silicone compound for vinyl and wood gutters. If possible, separate the sections of the leaking joint, clean with mineral spirits and then apply caulk compound to both surfaces before reassembling them.

Otherwise, simply clean the surfaces and spread compound generously on the inside of the gutter with a putty knife. Try to force

some compound into the joint, then smooth the compound.

Easy on the joints

Do not seal expansion joints on vinyl gutters. These joints generally are seams where straight sections join corner fittings; they permit the vinyl to expand and contract with changes in temperature.

Small efforts can reduce big utility bills

Owning your own home often translates into a larger living space, a bigger yard and, sometimes, bigger utility bills. But smart homeowners can keep their utility bills to a minimum and help the environment by taking a few simple steps.

Water bills

Your shower is one of the easiest places to cut down on water use. Install a low flow nozzle to save up to 50 percent usage. A shower head with its own on/off switch makes it easy to conserve water while soaping up. Most stores now carry such devices.

Leaky faucets and toilets are some of the biggest water wasters. A leaking faucet can waste up to 25 gallons a day!

There are dozens of other ways to conserve water. For example, Don't leave the water running when washing your car. Use a mulch in your garden to prevent water evaporation.

Also, before beginning any household chore that requires water, stop and think how you

Gutters made of galvanized metal can rust through if not kept clean and covered with rust-inhibiting paint. Fill pinholes with leak-sealing compound in an aerosol can.

For larger holes, apply a metal patching compound, which comes in two parts like epoxy. The parts are mixed and spread under and over fiberglass cloth that is in-

cluded or available with the product. These products are available at most large home centers.

Wooden gutters should be painted every three to five years. Be sure the wood is dry, then saturate the troughs with either a high-cement mixed to brushing consistency with turpentine, or a wood preservative containing a sealer. Sand and repaint the side of the gutter with two coats of exterior house paint.

Electric bills

Simply turning out lights will make a difference. Also, try replacing high wattage bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescents. These bulbs offer a warm light similar in color to regular incandescence, but last longer and use less energy than standard bulbs.

Make sure your water heater isn't wasting energy by being set too hot. Also, install electric water heaters as close as possible to the kitchen and bathrooms. This will mean shorter pipes and less heat lost as water travels through them.

If long pipes are necessary, wrap them in insulation. Use cold water whenever you can — it requires no energy.

Check your home's insulation. Do you need weather stripping around your windows and doors? If you can feel air coming in, the

answer is yes. Keep fire dampers closed when not in use. Heated or cooled air can't get out and keep vents and doors closed in infrequently used rooms. Heating or cooling unused rooms is a waste of energy and money.

Regularly clean the coils of your refrigerator and replace filters for your heating and air conditioning systems. This will help them to work more efficiently.

Gas bills

Many of the tips provided here will save on electric bills also. Saving on electric bills also translates to gas appliances. In addition, heat is nearly immediate; cooking, don't waste energy with lengthy pre-heating. Regularly clean and adjust your gas heater to make sure the flame is blue.

Some utility companies offer free audits. Private firms can conduct a more in-depth audit and will charge more than the local utility company.

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SAN LEANDRO: SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE in this completely remodeled 4 bedroom, 3 bath family home in the Assurea Parish area. Plenty of room here, and you'll love the like-new kitchen and baths. Formal dining room, fireplace, 2 master bedrooms, 2-car detached garage. \$275,000. To see for yourself call Phil Hunt, 748-5315.

SAN LEANDRO: COMPARE PRICES! At \$136,900 you'll be favorably impressed with this spanking clean 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhome. Living area with woodburning fireplace, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 car garage. \$275,000. It's shiny kitchen with like-new appliances, including a microwave. Second floor laundry room hookups, big closet spaces. Ready to move in. Margaret Gadsby, 748-5305.

ALAMEDA: TRUE AFFORDABILITY! \$102,000!! Two bedroom, 1 1/2 bath level home. Freshly painted, new carpets, located in backyard. Not a condo or a townhome, this is a co-op PENDING preferred, but seller may carry for qualified buyers. Margaret Pogue for more information, 748-5304.

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ALAMEDA: MINT CONDITION from the brick and wood exterior to the spacious living room, formal dining room and kitchen. Master bedroom with bath and second bedroom with atrium. Den/office is easily convertible to third bedroom. Spacious deck off driveway, 2-car garage, flagstone patio, landscaped rear yard. \$295,000. Ask for Bart Smith, 748-5314.

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Home warranties a wise purchase

Apartment marketing explored

When making one of the most significant purchases of a lifetime, home buyers should consider a number of ways to protect their investment.

Most mortgage settlement services including title insurance, appraisals, termite inspections and homeowners insurance either are required by law or have become standard practice in every home sale transaction to protect the interests of home buyers and sellers.

One optional, but important form of protection home buyers should not overlook is a home warranty service contract, says the Home warranty Association of California.

"A home warranty provides valuable protection at a minimal cost," said Shelly Lind, HWAC president. "It's one of the few

services which continues for a 12-month period after the escrow closes."

Just as title insurance protects the lender and buyer against discrepancies in a home's legal title or a professional inspection may protect a buyer from purchasing a home with problems overlooked by or unknown to the seller and real estate agent, a home warranty generally protects a buyer from incurring the cost of repairs or replacements for unforeseen, after-sale breakdowns of a home's mechanical systems and built-in appliances, Lind said.

"In addition, unlike typical closing fees and expenses, the cost of a home warranty is not based on a home's value, selling price or location," she said.

Generally, home warranty pricing is uniform across home

types. For example, a home warranty in Eureka would cost the same as a home warranty on a similar home in Beverly Hills with a much higher value, Lind said.

Typically, the cost for basic coverage under a one-year home warranty averages less than \$1 a day, with an average service call fee ranging from \$35 to \$50.

Since most buyers need to figure that an additional 3 to 6 percent will be added to the price of their homes through settlement expenses, Lind recommends that buyers estimate the settlement fees before submitting a sales offer and shop around for competitive prices for as many services as possible.

"Selecting a home warranty company is as critical as selecting an escrow, title or homeowner's insurance company," said Lind.

Homeowners should make certain the company providing home warranty service is financially strong and well-established with a proven track record. They should also make sure the company is licensed by the California Department of Insurance as required by state law.

Multi-family housing owners and managers looking for ways to give their properties an edge in these times of overbuilding and fierce competition should start by taking some lessons from the world of consumer marketing and retailing, two veteran apartment marketing experts recommend.

For years, consumer product manufacturers have relied on market research — i.e. asking potential customers what they want in a product before it is put on the market — to successfully sell everything from candy bars to cars, Kathleen McKenna-Harmon and Laurence Harmon point out in their new book, *Contemporary Apartment Marketing*, published by the Institute of Real Estate Management.

"But despite the benefits of research as a marketing tool, such techniques have largely escaped the attention of multi-housing developers and owners," say the Harmons.

"Apartments and condominiums are generally designed according to the tastes of developers who rely on the 'feel' of the

project rather than the preferences of potential renters."

Likewise, they add, many apartment managers fall into the trap of basing their property marketing efforts on what their "instincts" tell them prospective residents want, without verifying this through research.

The Harmons cite a real-life example of a disastrous advertising campaign for a luxury high-rise complex targeted to senior citizens. The ad failed because the marketers assumed the building should be positioned as offering security and comfort.

But what the target audience

was really looking for was an environment that emphasized active, independent living.

McKenna-Harmon and Harmon, who together head McKenna Management Associates, Inc. in Minneapolis, feel such examples illustrate dramatically why end-user research is an absolutely essential ingredient for successful apartment marketing in the '90s.

"Talking directly with rental housing consumers about their wants and needs, and then systematically collecting and analyzing this information, lets you know the market receptivity to every aspect of your property before it's marketed," the couple say. "Thus, thorough market research can predetermine the success of your product."

This is especially crucial, they emphasize, in the current renter's market. Thanks to the oversupply of space in many U.S. cities, to-

day's renters have become much more selective. Since they're free to choose housing based on their own preferences, it's vital for owners and managers to know what those preferences are.

Effective apartment market research doesn't have to be expensive, according to the couple. They

'Thorough market research can predetermine the success of your product'

recommend such low-cost, proven techniques as focus groups and resident/prospect questionnaires.

In *Contemporary Apartment Marketing*, the Harmons also discuss innovative, 1990s-style strategies for planning marketing programs, creating advertising campaigns, leasing as selling, and developing a professional staff. Since retaining current tenants is far more cost-effective than acquiring new ones, an entire chapter focuses on fresh new approaches to this critical issue.

The book also includes many more real-life examples of proven successful and unsuccessful strategies drawn from the author's more than 30 years of combined experience in management, marketing and market research.

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Your Weekend Guide to Open Home Listings



AKLAND Open Saturday and Sunday 2-4:30 pm

11 Mountain Blvd., SAT/SUN 2-4:30 3bd/2ba Fernwood \$525,000
in Kenay (Sat) Karen Starr (Sun), The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

59 Potomac St., SAT/SUN 10-5 5bd/3ba Mor. Tmp. \$270,000
in 530-7654

33 Delmer St., SAT/SUN 2-4:30 2+bd New Kitchen \$199,500
in 848-2724, Diane 526-5273

60 39th Ave., SAT 2-4:30 New, 2bd/2ba \$175,000+
in 531-7000

14 McKinley SAT/SUN 2-4:30 3bd/1ba ChinaHill \$169,000
in Well, Art Realty 465-4805

AKLAND Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm

201 Asct Dr., Piedmont Pines 3bd/2+ba English \$575,000
in Richardson, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

75 Fernhoff Rd., Hillcrest Estates 3bd/2ba Fam. Rm. \$569,000
in Woolhouse, The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

10 Lincoln Ave., Lincoln Heights 4bd/2½ba NuTudor \$449,000
in 530-7654, Better Homes 339-4000

5 Sherman, Upper Rockridge 3bd/2½ba Opulent \$449,000
in Marshall, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

60 Harbord Dr., Montclair 3bd/2½ba Wine Cel. \$439,000
in 530-7654, Better Homes 339-4000

64 Viewcrest Dr., OPEN 1-30-4:30 3+bd/2+ba \$419,000
in 530-6460, Pacific Union 339-6460

57 Brentwood Rd., Oakmore 3+bd/2+ba \$410,000
in 530-6460, Anderson, Pacific Union 339-6460

59 Alhambra Lane OPEN 1-3 4bd/3ba Montclair \$389,000
in 530-6460, Pacific Union 339-6460

60 Modoc Rockridge 3bd/2ba Location! \$375,000
in 539-8787, Chow, Mason-McDuffie 339-8787

51 Givin Dr., Piedmont Pines 3bd/2ba New List. \$349,000
in 530-0400, Paul, The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

57 Treasle Glen Crocker Highlands 3+bd/2½ba New List. \$347,000
in 530-6460, Promesil, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

61 Heartwood Dr., New Exclusive 3bd, New kitchen \$319,500
in 530-6460, O'Shaughnessy, The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

62 Westover First Open! 530-8666
in 530-8666, Pierro, Grubb & Ellis 339-8666

77 Aarrowhead First Open! 530-8666
in 530-8666, Pierro, Grubb & Ellis 339-8666

131 Henry St., Vaulted Ceilings \$319,000
in 530-8666, Pierro, Grubb & Ellis 339-8666

132 Surrey Lane Montclair 4bd/3ba Spacious \$319,000
in 530-8666, Greene, Better Homes 339-4000

63 Edge OPEN 1-3 2+bd/2ba Oakmore \$319,000
in 530-8666, Shin, Better Homes 531-8643

50 Girvin Piedmont Pines 3bd/1½ba Hot Tub \$315,000
in 530-5900, English, Better Homes 530-5900

57 Treasle Glen Crocker Highlands 3bd/1ba \$309,900
in 530-6460, Woodhead, Pacific Union 339-6460

58 Thornhill Brown Shingle 3bd,2½ba Fireplc. \$309,500
in 530-8666, Pierro, Grubb & Ellis 339-8666

59 Stantonville Crestmont 3bd/2½ba Fam. Rm. \$309,000
in 530-5111, Pfeily 530-5111

60 Belfour OPEN 1-3 3bd Crocker \$305,000
in 530-8666, M. Orr, Better Homes 339-8559

61 Adams Point Adams Point 5bd/2ba Craftsman \$295,000
in 530-8666, Adams, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

62 Burton Just Listed 2bd/1ba Fireplc. \$292,000
in 530-8666, Anna Cooper, Coldwell Banker, 339-1174

63 Brooklyn Lots of House! 4bd/2ba \$289,000
in 530-8666, Mason-McDuffie 339-8787

64 Burlington OPEN 1-3 3bd/2ba Immaculate \$289,000
in 530-8666, Pierro, Grubb & Ellis 339-8666

65 Mandalay Rockridge 2bd/1ba Just List. \$289,000
in 530-8666, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

66 Wayne Joaquin Miller Hts. 3+bd/3ba 1st Open \$289,000
in 531-2437, Better Homes 531-2437

67 Cooldige Lincoln Heights 3+bd/2½ba Updated \$285,000
in 530-8666, Mason-McDuffie 339-658-6264

68 Wiegles Rockridge Duplex-2bd & 1bd \$279,000
in 530-8666, Mason-McDuffie 339-8888

4351 Whittle Upper Fruitvale
Harriet Schoen, Better Homes 531-2437

56 Entrada Piedmont Ave.
Holda Hirshberg, Wells & Bennett 531-6118

3940 Elston Glenview
M. Dresser, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

206 John St. Just Listed!
Nancy Novick, Wells & Bennett 482-2392

105 Hamilton Place OPEN 1-4:30
Alexander Lee, Security Pacific Real Estate 222-6955

384 43rd St. Temescal
H. Schmitt, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

5239 Hillen Maxwell Park
B. Bowers, Mason-McDuffie 869-4254

365 Perkins Adams Point
P. Champion, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

6534 Outlook OPEN 12-2:30
Ruby Ng, Coldwell Banker 339-1174

365 Perkins St. #205 Adams Point
Howard Shepherd, Better Homes Realty 893-4800

365 Perkins St. #105 Adams Point
Howard Shepherd, Better Homes Realty 893-4800

2051 Otis Dr. OPEN 12-2:30
Kevin McMullen, Coldwell Banker 339-1174

1311 Henry St. OPEN SUN 1-5
Mason-McDuffie 845-0200

1421 Glendale OPEN SUN 2-4:30 3bd/2ba Privacy
D. Adamczak, Mason-McDuffie 339-8888/848-5636

2237 Derby OPEN SUN 1-5 3bd/2ba Edwardian
+Approved Plan for Rear Cottage! Owner, 559-9280

2212 Browning OPEN SAT 2-4:30 Craftsman
J.R. Long/ W. Kashiwa, Grubb & Ellis 339-8666

2127 Acton OPEN SUN 2-4:30 2bd/1ba Fireplc.
Nick, Better Homes 525-2727

300 Pomona New Listing
G. Boomer, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290

36 King Ave. OPEN SUN 1-4
Jim Kelley, Grubb & Ellis 339-8666

101 Huntleigh Rd. Piedmont
Joan Daniel, Pacific Union 339-6460

111 Ricardo Ave. Updated Kitchen
Susan Veit, The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

172 Mountain Ave. Traditional
Darran Ross, The GRUBB Co. 339-4000

5 Greenbank Ave. Piedmont
Georgia Cornell, Pacific Union 339-6460

30 Maxwelton Price Slashed!
S. Yamamoto, Mason-McDuffie 339-9290/869-4256

112 Latham St. Piedmont
Wendy Gardner, Pacific Union 339-6460

125 Ronada Ave. Piedmont
Chet Gohd (Sat) / Bonnie Hirsh (Sun) Pacific Union 339-6460

1409 Grand Ave. Remodeled
Lisa Weil, Wells & Bennett 531-1653

22 Fairview Ave. First Open
Elizabeth Dickson, The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

1135 Harvard Rd. Pristine
Joan Grubb, The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

127 Greenbank Ave. Updated Kitchen
A. Grubb / M. Watson, The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

114 Alta Ave. New Exclusive
Donald Grubb, Jr., The GRUBB Co. 339-0400

Approved Plans \$225,000

Rehabers Gem! \$279,000

2bd/1ba Craftsman \$249,500

Duplex- Bay View \$249,000

Craftsman \$229,000

2bd/2ba \$195,000

2bd/1ba \$188,500

2bd/1ba New List! \$169,500

2bd/2ba Condo \$143,000

1bd Condo \$82,500

2bd/1ba \$120,000

2bd/1ba \$82,500

2bd/1ba \$154,900

2bd/1ba \$375,000

2bd/1ba \$325,000

2bd/1ba \$227,000

2bd/1ba \$219,000

2bd/1ba \$219,000

2bd/1ba \$195,000

A honey of a tangerine

The New York Times Magazine Crossword Puzzle

Lacking vitamin C in your diet? How about some citrus? There is enough displayed in your local produce section to satisfy even Linus Pauling.

Honey tangerine — Quick produce quiz! Which certain citrus fruit would you most likely spend your hard-earned money on? Would it be A) Murcott orange, or B) honey tangerine? Our survey says ... B! That's what the marketing folks figured also. Hence, the appropriate renaming of this delicious fruit.

The honey tangerine is about the size of a small navel orange but flatter in shape. The skin sometimes has the look of a painter's drop cloth, with anywhere from a few rust-colored speckles to full-blown splotches of color. It's unfortunate that this less-than-common package turns off some shoppers to its tasty sweetness.

A common characteristic of most tangerines is the so-called "zipper skin," which means it's a snap to peel. With this variety, it's not quite a snap, but by no means a chore. Since they're thin-skinned, I find it easier to slice it like an orange. The juicy flesh has a rich, burnt-orange color with quite a few seeds. They are currently available for about a buck per pound.

A more unusual citrus fruit and unfortunately, not as widely available, is the blood orange. A handful of varieties are found in California, but the most common is the Moro. A strikingly beautiful specimen, it is about the size of a regular orange but with a skin highlighted by varying degrees of reddish/crimson splashes of color. But there's more! A blood orange sliced east to west reveals similarly colored membranes. From traces of red outlining each segment to an eye-popping display of color. But there's STILL more ... the flavor. Memorable. The first taste says "orange," but the underlying flavor is naturally sweet berry.

Like many produce items we have profiled, the blood orange is

Produce Profiles

GUIDO THE GARDENER

much more popular in Europe, particularly Spain and Italy, than here in the U.S. According to Mike Foskett, who along with his partner, Lance Wallheim, owns California Citrus Specialties, the bloods have been around since the 1920s, but not available on any kind of commercial scale.

These veterans of the citrus world started their operation in Porterville, south of Visalia/Fresno, about 10 years ago. In 1985, they grew and sold a very modest 28 cases. This year they expect that figure to exceed 30,000 cases. But even with this kind of growth, there is not the size of supply from them and from other growers to meet demand. Remember Economics 101? Small supply + lots of demand = high prices. Number-one quality fruits can fetch close to \$3 per pound, if you can find them. And if you do find them, do your taste buds a favor and try one. If you don't find them, ask for them. It's a truly dazzling fruit.

Peel update — the almost softball-sized Comice variety has tasted sweet and smooth lately and is only about 59 cents per pound. Try one that's a bit soft and has a red blush to the skin. You can almost slice a ripe Comice with a business card.

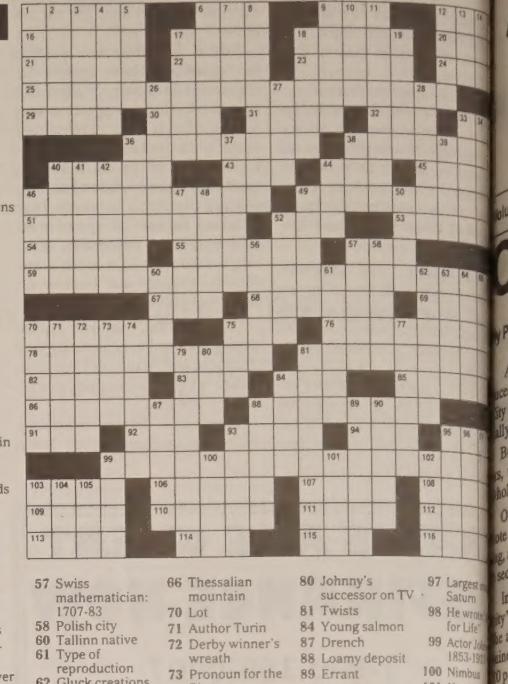
This week I'm fortunate to attend the 13th Annual Ecological Farming Conference at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Lots of workshops, lots of story telling and NO 1 a.m. alarms buzzing my brain!

Guido the Gardener, aka Alamedan Mark Ferro, works for Whole Foods

NO MEN ALLOWED

BY JOY L. WOUK/EDITED BY EUGENE T. MALESKA

ACROSS	43 Ignited	88 Nautical ropes	11 Window-envelope material
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23 Corolla part	111 Malay sir	111 —	33 Therewith, in Darmstadt
24 Depend	112 Madison Ave. denizen	112 —	34 Chemical compound
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29 Roll-call reply	114 Douceur	115 Upward bend in timber	36 Circé et al.
30 Caviar	116 New York mayor: 1784-89	116 —	37 To turn pale, in Blois
31 Composer Janacek	75 For	117 —	38 Elec. unit
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36 Seven-inning diamond game	81 BANANA-HEADRESS ACTRESS	120 —	41 Make a new knot
38 CHANNEL BETWEEN WALES AND ANGLESEY ISLAND	82 Inventor Nikola —	121 —	42 Parts of "Phèdre"
40 Exhaust gradually	83 Winery feature	122 —	44 Varnish
	84 Lap dog	123 —	46 Omani, e.g.
	85 Comedian Kaye	124 —	47 Coarse fibers
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			56 Hokkaido port
			57 Swiss mathematician: 1707-83
			58 Polish city
			59 Tallinn native
			60 Type of reproduction
			61 Gluck creations
			62 Soviet dissident-author Shansky
			63 City in Laconia
			64 Senator-astronaut Poi
			65 Verbose
			66 Thessalian mountain
			67 Lot
			68 Derby winner's wreath
			69 Pronoun for the Pinta
			70 Errant
			71 Author Turin
			72 Derby winner's wreath
			73 Pronoun for the Pinta
			74 City in Laconia
			75 Cambodia's
			76 Mean
			77 Gospels
			78 Johnny's successor on TV
			79 Runaway
			80 Largest
			81 Twists
			82 He wrote
			83 Young salmon
			84 Drench
			85 Derby winner's wreath
			86 Loamy deposit
			87 Errant
			88 Comedians
			89 Errant
			90 She often starred with 99 Down
			91 Hawthorne
			92 Perused
			93 Runaway
			94 Concealed
			95 Pinnule
			96 Old World lizard
			97 Kind of



State may cut into funds for local fire protection

By City News

Contra Costa supervisors Wednesday urged county residents to bombard Gov. Pete Wilson with protests against a proposed state budget that would slash funds for local fire protection and face them with a choice between fee hikes and fire station closures.

The board voted unanimously to launch the legal process that

would give them the authority to raise fire district fees in nine communities from Oakley to Orinda, in case the state legislature approves Wilson's budget scheme.

But property owners in the affected districts can block the fee hikes or force the issue to a vote if enough register written objections by March 16, the date set for a final public hearing on the proposed assessments.

Wilson's plan would withdraw \$2.6 billion in the special district augmentation funds that now support local fire departments. Wilson wants to use the money to close a burgeoning state budget gap.

Contra Costa would lose about \$25 million that provides approximately 50 percent of the financing for nine local fire protection districts. Under a special benefit assessment schedule approved by the board Wednesday, Contra Costa property owners would pay up to \$68 more per year in Oakley and as much as \$407 more in Orinda for an average single-family home.

Businesses where the risk of fire is greater would pay multiples of those amounts, up to a maximum of 10 times the basic assessment for a business like a refinery.

But if protests are lodged by ratepayers representing more than 5 percent of the new revenues that would be raised in any district, the fees must be placed before that district's voters in the June 8 election. The new fees would then

have to be approved by a majority of the voters. The increases would be added to property tax bills starting in August.

If over 50 percent of the ratepayers in any district object by March 16, the supervisors would be forced to impose the fees in that district. The fee hikes proposed for the Contra Costa Fire Protection District, which serves Martinez, Lafayette, Concord, Clayton, Pacheco, Pinole and Walnut Creek,

The 1993 Wedding Planners Guide

You are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate The 1993 Wedding Planners Guide Appearing February 23 & 25th in The Montclarion, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal and The Piedmonter.

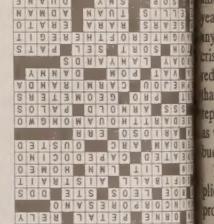
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